Real Clothes
by Makimura Satoru
HANKO

槇村さとる
MAKIMURA SATORU

I did a lot last year, touting the cheeky goal of the "Minus 15 Year Rule."* However, what I'm getting now are remarks such as, "Even though you're in your 30s, you don't look it," or, "Even though you're in your 40s, you're cute!" which, in the end, is just being caught up in terms of years! – I realized.

This year, the theme is "ageless." I'm increasing my impudence.

(*T/N: This refers to a fad where women try to achieve a look that makes others think they are younger than they actually are. Some say that 10 years younger is "normal" so 15 years is a worthy challenge for the beauty minded.)

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QC QUEEN'S COMICS YOU

Real Clothes 6

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リアル・クローズ

YOU QUEEN'S COMICS

Real Clothes リアル・クローズ 6

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集英社

ISBN978-4-08-865517-8

C9979 ¥419E

9784088655178

1929979004194

定価 本体419円＋税

雑誌 44545-17

A new project on the horizon!!

The world of the young casuals is a first – and she vaults into it. It is there that Kinue learns the difficulty of moving people...

Together with Konishi Mami, the chief of the "young casual" floor, Kinue is able to proceed with a plan to attract young people to the store. Mami is able to perform her job to the letter, but she can't feel any passion or individuality. That difference in drive is what causes a conflict over what "permanent employee" and "contract employee" actually are.

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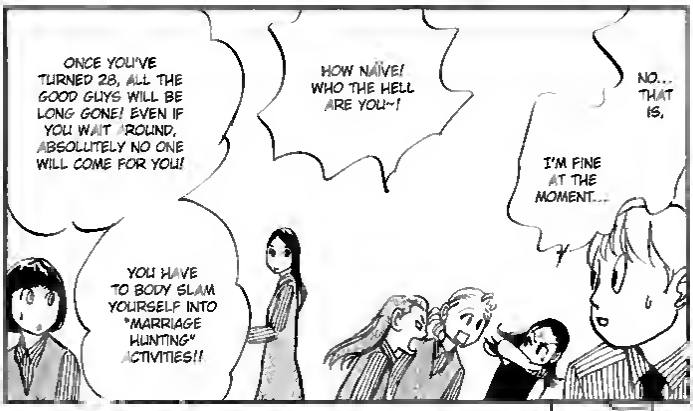
Chapter 38

AMANO-SAN, HAVE YOU LOST WEIGHT?
UM...
SHE'S SHARP!!
HM~, 3 KG...?
SHE'S LOST 3.3 KG.

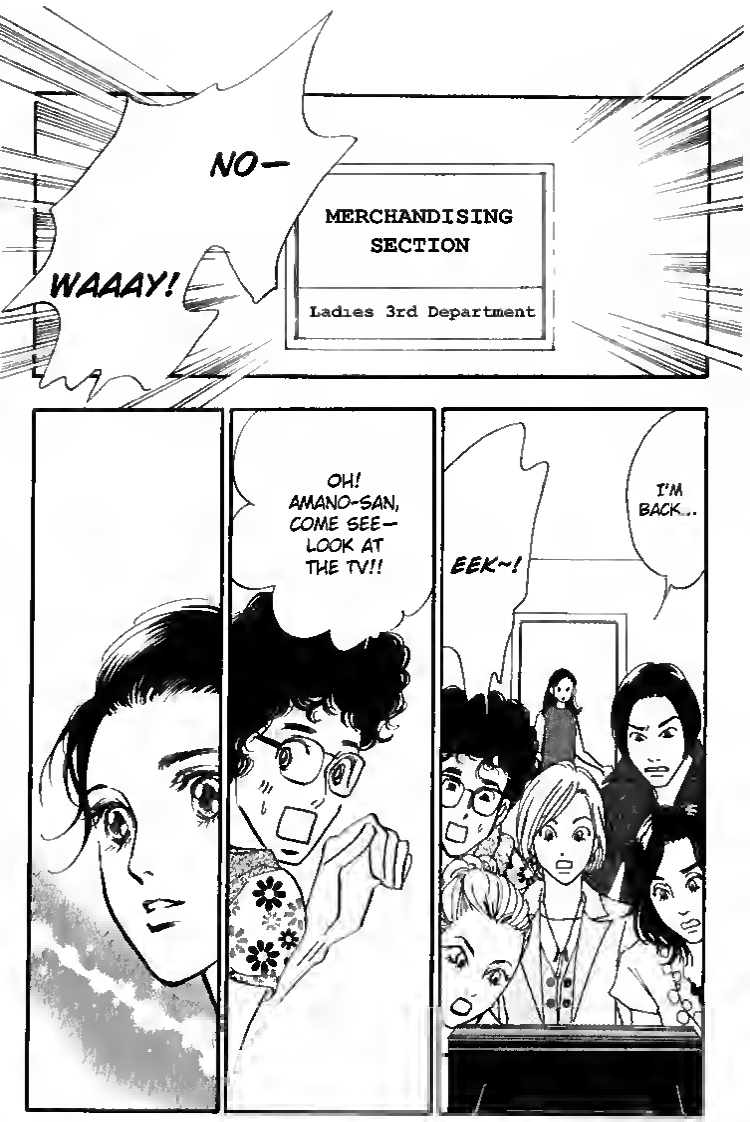
AND YOU'RE SHOWING YOUR ARMS, AND YOU'RE CONFIDENT— I FEEL IT
NO, I KNEW IT— YOU LOST WEIGHT.
THESE GUYS~
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE A WOMAN?!
I FINALLY HAD IT CUT AND ADDED A FEW HIGHLIGHTS
IT'S BECAUSE OF MY HAIR IT JUST MAKES MY FACE LOOK THINNER.
AND THEN,
THE NEXT STEP IS TO DO THE HAKONE TRAIL RUN AND GET A MASSAGE TO TONE THE LINES OF YOUR BODY.
IF YOU FLUSH OUT THE WASTE PRODUCTS FROM YOUR JOINTS,
YOU'LL LOOK 2 KG THINNER JUST LIKE THAT.
ACK!
YOU LURE THE NEXT MAN AND ENSNARE HIM

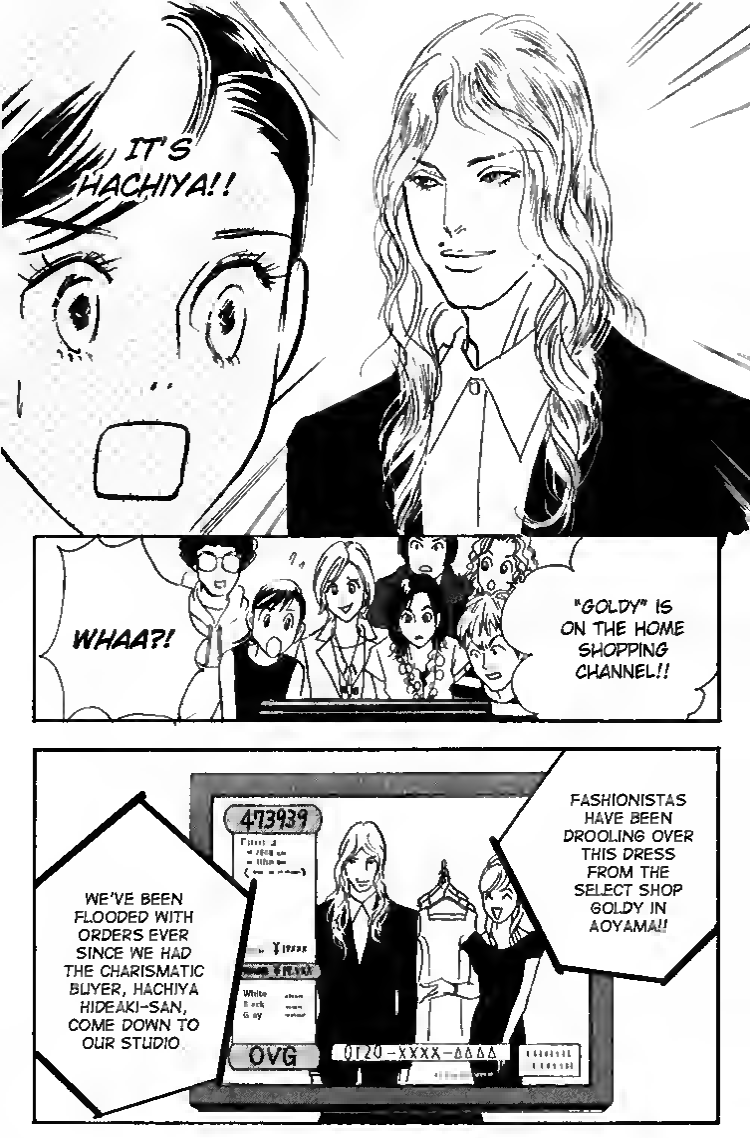

ONCE YOU'VE TURNED 28, ALL THE GOOD GUYS WILL BE LONG GONE! EVEN IF YOU WAIT AROUND, ABSOLUTELY NO ONE WILL COME FOR YOU!
HOW NAÏVE! WHO THE HELL ARE YOU~!
NO... THAT IS,
I'M FINE AT THE MOMENT...
YOU HAVE TO BODY SLAM YOURSELF INTO "MARRIAGE HUNTING" ACTIVITIES!!

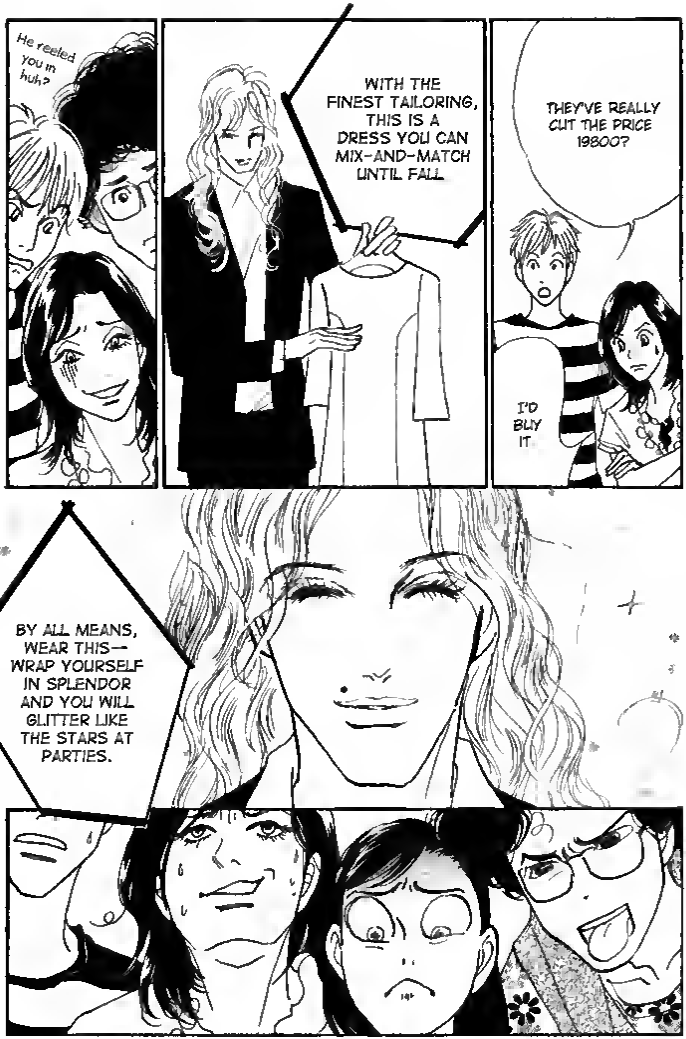
CACKLE!
HUH?!
LOOK WHO'S TALKING! WHAT ABOUT THE TWO OF YOU?!

CLA—NG
CLA—NG
POUND-
POUND-
POUND-
POUND

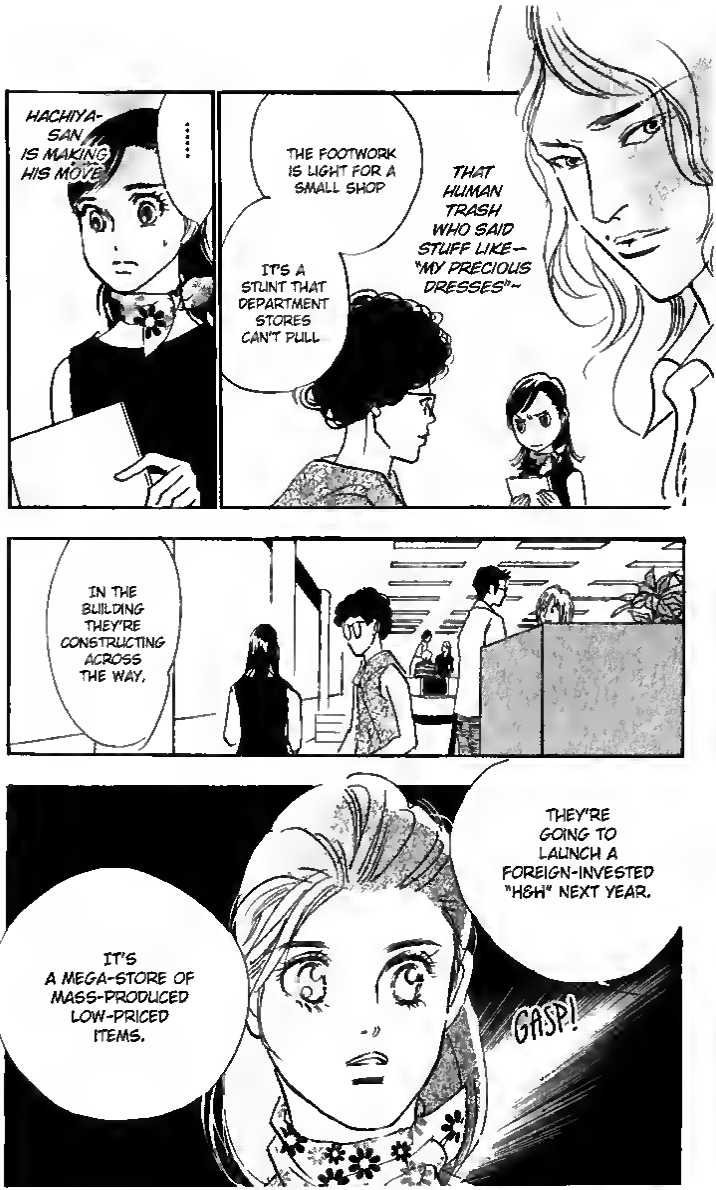
THE RETAILERS...
I WONDER IF THEY'LL BE A FASHIONABLE TRATTORIA, OR A REALLY GOOD SOBA SHOP?
CLA—NG
CLA—NG
DRUM DRUM DRUM
AMAZING. THEY'RE BUILDING A SKYSCRAPER DURING THIS ECONOMIC DEPRESSION...
TEE-HEE-HEE.


NO—
WAAAY!
MERCHANDISING SECTION
Ladies 3rd Department
OH! AMANO-SAN, COME SEE— LOOK AT THE TV!!
EEK~!
I'M BACK..


IT'S HACHIYA!!
WHAA?!
"GOLDY" IS ON THE HOME SHOPPING CHANNEL!!
473939
OVG
0120-XXXX-ΔΔΔΔ
WE'VE BEEN FLOODED WITH ORDERS EVER SINCE WE HAD THE CHARISMATIC BUYER, HACHIYA HIDEAKI-SAN, COME DOWN TO OUR STUDIO.
FASHIONISTAS HAVE BEEN DROOLING OVER THIS DRESS FROM THE SELECT SHOP GOLDY IN AOYAMA!!

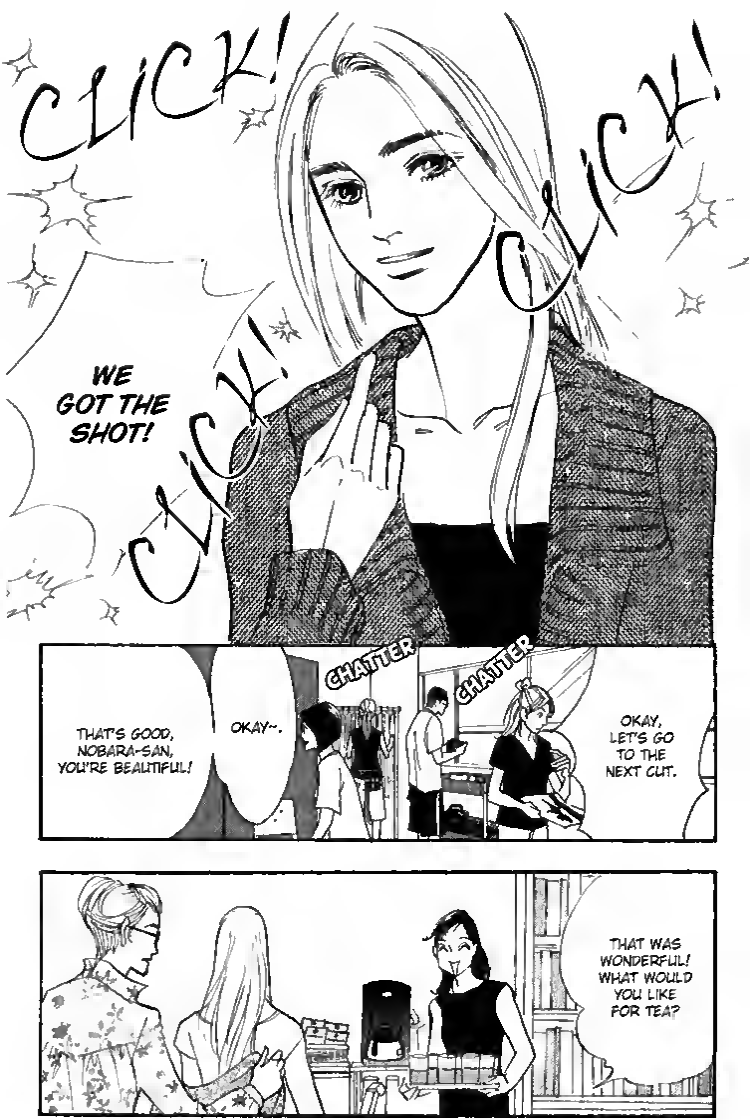

He reeled you in huh?
WITH THE FINEST TAILORING, THIS IS A DRESS YOU CAN MIX-AND-MATCH UNTIL FALL
THEY'VE REALLY CUT THE PRICE 19800?
I'D BUY IT
BY ALL MEANS, WEAR THIS— WRAP YOURSELF IN SPLENDOR AND YOU WILL GLITTER LIKE THE STARS AT PARTIES.

AH— GEEZ, THAT WAS SUCH A SHOCK~.
UNBELIEVABLE! THAT HACHIYA GUY IS WAGGING HIS TAIL LIKE AN EXPECTANT PUPPY~!!
THAT'S DISGUSTING~
LAUNCHING AOYAMA BRANDS AT A LOW PRICE, EVEN MORE SO
WITH THE TV SHOPPING... WELL-PLAYED, HACHIYA-SAN.
HO— HO— HOW SO? WON'T THAT BRING DOWN GOLDY'S STATUS?


HACHIYA-SAN IS MAKING HIS MOVE
.....
THE FOOTWORK IS LIGHT FOR A SMALL SHOP
IT'S A STUNT THAT DEPARTMENT STORES CAN'T PULL
THAT HUMAN TRASH WHO SAID STUFF LIKE-- "MY PRECIOUS DRESSES"~
IN THE BUILDING THEY'RE CONSTRUCTING ACROSS THE WAY,
IT'S A MEGA-STORE OF MASS-PRODUCED LOW-PRICED ITEMS.
THEY'RE GOING TO LAUNCH A FOREIGN-INVESTED "H&H" NEXT YEAR.
GASP!

EVERYONE IS...
MOVING...
LIFE IS LOVE AND WAR.
IT'S A CHALLENGE SENT TO US.

I CAN'T DROP MY GUARD!
This isn't the time to be talking about things like soba shops
I'LL BE GOING TO THE STUDIO
BE CAREFUL ~
YES! DIRECT YOUR GAZE THIS WAY.

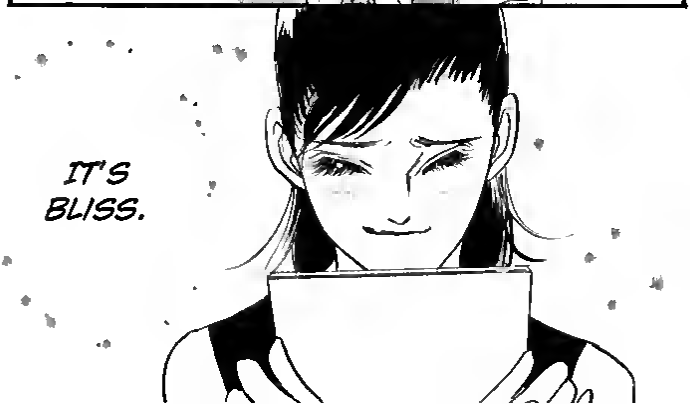

CLICK!
CLICK!
CLICK!
WE GOT THE SHOT!
CHATTER
CHATTER
THAT'S GOOD, NOBARA-SAN, YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL!
OKAY~.
OKAY, LET'S GO TO THE NEXT CUT.
THAT WAS WONDERFUL! WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FOR TEA?

ACTRESSES ARE REALLY BEAUTIFUL...
HER SKIN IS FLAWLESS ALL OVER AND GLOWING LIKE A BABY'S.
YES.
DO YOU HAVE ANY ROSE HIP TEA?
YES
IS IT OKAY TO MAKE THE NEXT CUT THE POST-SHOT?
AMANO-SAN
IT'S ALRIGHT! WE WANT TO COMMUNICATE THE MESSAGE "I WEAR CASHMERE AND MELT~"!
ISN'T IT IN BAD TASTE TO CUT OFF THE SWEATER PRODUCT?

YOU LITTLE~ IF YOU SAY "BACK UP," WE'RE THROUGH. YOUR CAMERAMAN AND MODEL WILL BE DISAPPOINTED AND THEIR MOTIVATION WILL DROP.
"BACK UP" IS A TABOO WORD! AND BEING INDECISIVE IS NO GOOD! MAKE YOUR DIRECTIONS PRECISE!
YES, SIR!
YES, SIR!
UH...
AH!
OH!
THEN PLEASE TAKE SOME WAIST-UP SHOTS AS WELL, FOR "BACK UP"...
IS IT REALLY, REALLY OKAY?
YOU'VE ONLY GOT ONE CHANCE TO SHOOT THIS.
PLEASE DO THOSE TWO!
AN EXPRESSION SHOT AND A WAIST-UP SHOT.
THE NEXT SHOTS WILL BE
?
ALRIGHT.

I FINISHED THE REPAIR~
HUFF HUFF
THANKS A LOT.
I TRIED TO PLAN FOR EVERY POSSIBILITY, BUT PROBLEMS I NEVER EXPECTED KEEP RAINING DOWN ON ME ONE AFTER THE OTHER
I'M DIZZY.

OUR DREAMS ARE STEADILY TAKING FORM.
HOW FRUSTRATING NOBARA YUKI IS GORGEOUS
IT'S BUSY.


IT'S BLISS.

.....
SCHNEIDER SCHNEIDER BRAND
BOSS, THE HIPPO ESSENCE POSTER AND DIRECT MARKETING PHOTO SHOOTS ARE FINISHED
GOOD.
THAT'S A WRAP, PEOPLE~
Done! ^_^
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
SCRAPE...
OH! THIS IS THE ORDER FOR "BLOOM." PLEASE STAMP IT WITH YOUR HANKO* AND ALSO...
YOU WORK HARD, AMANO
HUH?!

(*T/N A hanko is a personal seal that acts as a signature in everyday Japanese life.)

SOMEHOW, SOMEWHERE, YOU BECAME MY RIGHT ARM.
YOU ARE SOMEONE I RELY ON. I'VE PUT MY FAITH IN YOU. IT'S TRUE.
HMP!

MOMMYYYY
—AND SO, I HAVE A JOB THAT I CAN ENTRUST TO YOU ALONE.
Young People Come Back Department Store!
SQUEAK!
What's tha s'posed to mean?
MEDIUM-QUALITY, LOW-COST, PRICED AT COST— WE'LL SET UP A PREP ROOM FOR A COLLECTION AIMED AT YOUNG PEOPLE.

LOW-PRICED, MEDIUM-QUALITY, MASS-PRODUCED, YOUNG CASUAL...
—SO, WE'LL SET UP A SATELLITE SHOP, AN EXPANSION OF THE BLOCK THAT SELLS TO YOUNGER CROWDS.
YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE FIXATED ON USED CLOTHES OR LOW-PRICED ITEMS.
THE LAUNCH OF HSH IS AIMING IN THAT DIRECTION NEXT YEAR.
EVEN GOLDY IS SEEKING A MEANS OF SURVIVAL WITHOUT CARING ABOUT HOW IT LOOKS.
A DEPARTMENT STORE CAN'T JUST FOLD THEIR ARMS, SIT BACK, AND WATCH THAT HAPPEN

◆End of Chapter 38◆

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by Makimura Satoru

Translated by : Quixoticpixel
Proof-read by : Cyber_3
Cleaned by : Paralda
Typeset by : In Valen's Name
QC by . Maris

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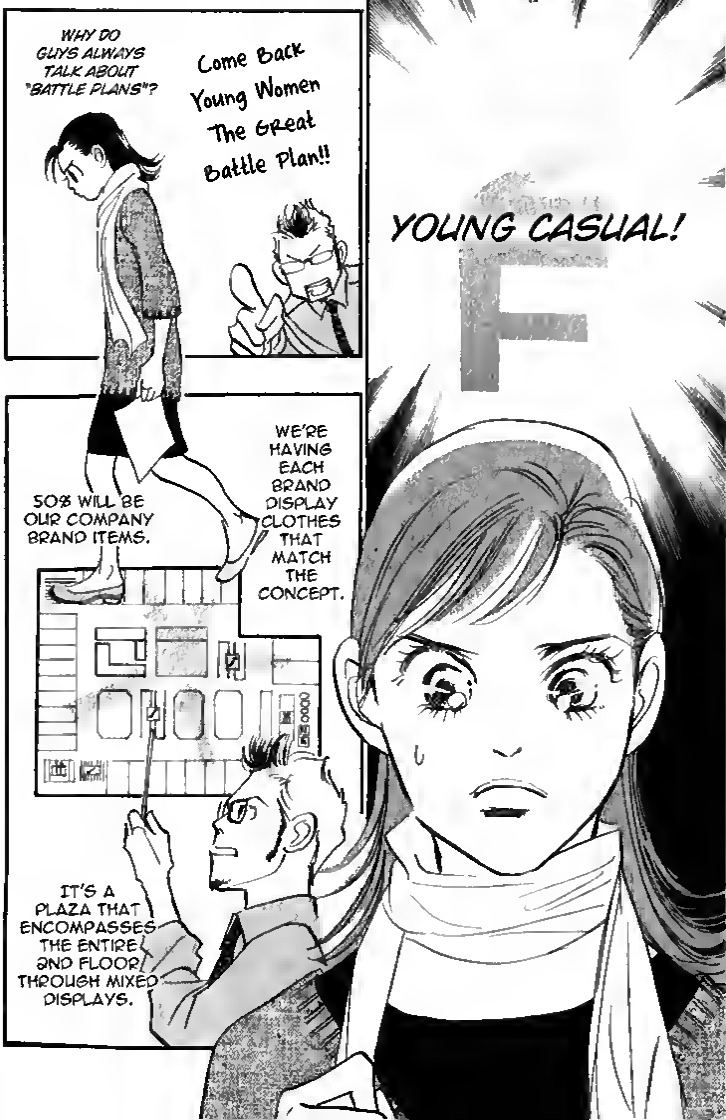
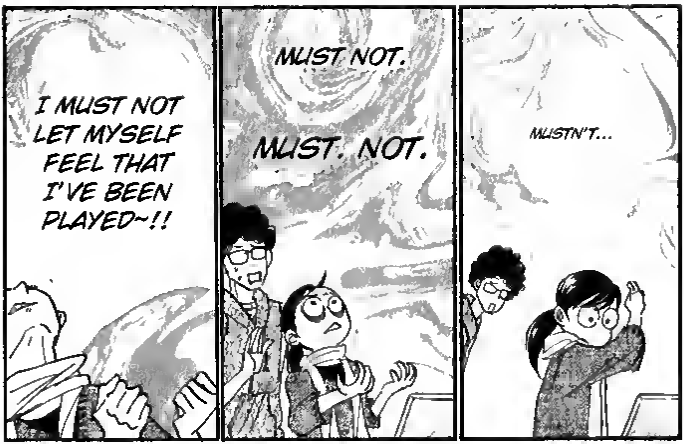
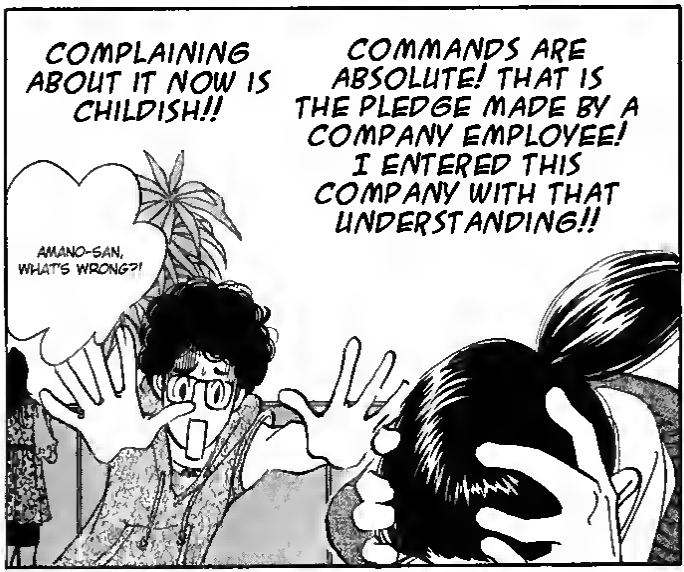
Chapter 39


WHY DO GUYS ALWAYS TALK ABOUT "BATTLE PLANS"?
Come Back Young Women The Great Battle Plan!!
YOUNG CASUAL!
WE'RE HAVING EACH BRAND DISPLAY CLOTHES THAT MATCH THE CONCEPT.
SO'S WILL BE OUR COMPANY BRAND ITEMS.
IT'S A PLAZA THAT ENCOMPASSES THE ENTIRE 2ND FLOOR, THROUGH MIXED DISPLAYS.

THE IN-HOUSE BRAND MANAGER, SAITOU-SAN,
THE FASHION BRANDS MANAGER, KIHARA-SAN,
THE LEADER OF THE SECOND FLOOR SALES TEAM, KONISHI MAMI-SAN, AND TWO SALES CLERKS.
I'M THE CHIEF. THE OTHER MEMBERS ARE
I'm changing the name of the project.
YOUNG KIDS COME BACK BATTLE PLAN!
NOVEMBER ~ FEBRUARY
HMPH.
IT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE.
FLIP
FLIP
THE DATES ARE NOVEMBER '08 ~ FEBRUARY '09.
SCHEDULE NOTE BOOK
A FOCAL CORNER MADE FOR A NEW LINE THAT WILL COMPETE HEAD-ON WITH THE OPENING OF THE RIVAL MASS-PRODUCED SHOP.
...
SIGH.
SCHEDULE NOTE BOOK

TAP
LET'S ALL
WORK
TAP
CLICK
TOGETHER.
TAP-
TAP-
TAP!
♪
There
SINCE THE CORNER STARTS IN NOVEMBER, THEN COUNTING BACK~
THE FIRST MEETING WILL BE SOMETIME NEXT WEEK. I'VE GOTTA MAKE APPOINTMENTS WITH THE PEOPLE IN CHARGE RIGHT AWAY!
VIP!
DRUG!
SEND!
THE END OF THE YEAR SALE WARS AND
THE REGULAR BUSINESS OF AUTUMN/WINTER ITEM ORDERS AND
KNITTING TOGETHER THE LOOSE ENDS! —SO TO SPEAK.
THE HIPPO ESSENCE EVENT AND


I MUST NOT LET MYSELF FEEL THAT I'VE BEEN PLAYED~!!
MUST NOT.
MUST. NOT.
MUSTN'T...


COMPLAINING ABOUT IT NOW IS CHILDISH!!
COMMANDS ARE ABSOLUTE! THAT IS THE PLEDGE MADE BY A COMPANY EMPLOYEE! I ENTERED THIS COMPANY WITH THAT UNDERSTANDING!!
AMANO-SAN, WHAT'S WRONG?!

BING!
~GRRRRR~~!
GUH!!
To you who smiled despite the heavy workload...
How brave!
And scary--
GO--
GO AND COME BACK SAFELY!
I'M GOING OVER TO THE SECOND FLOOR FOR NOW.
THINKING ABOUT IT JUST INCREASES MY ANXIETY!

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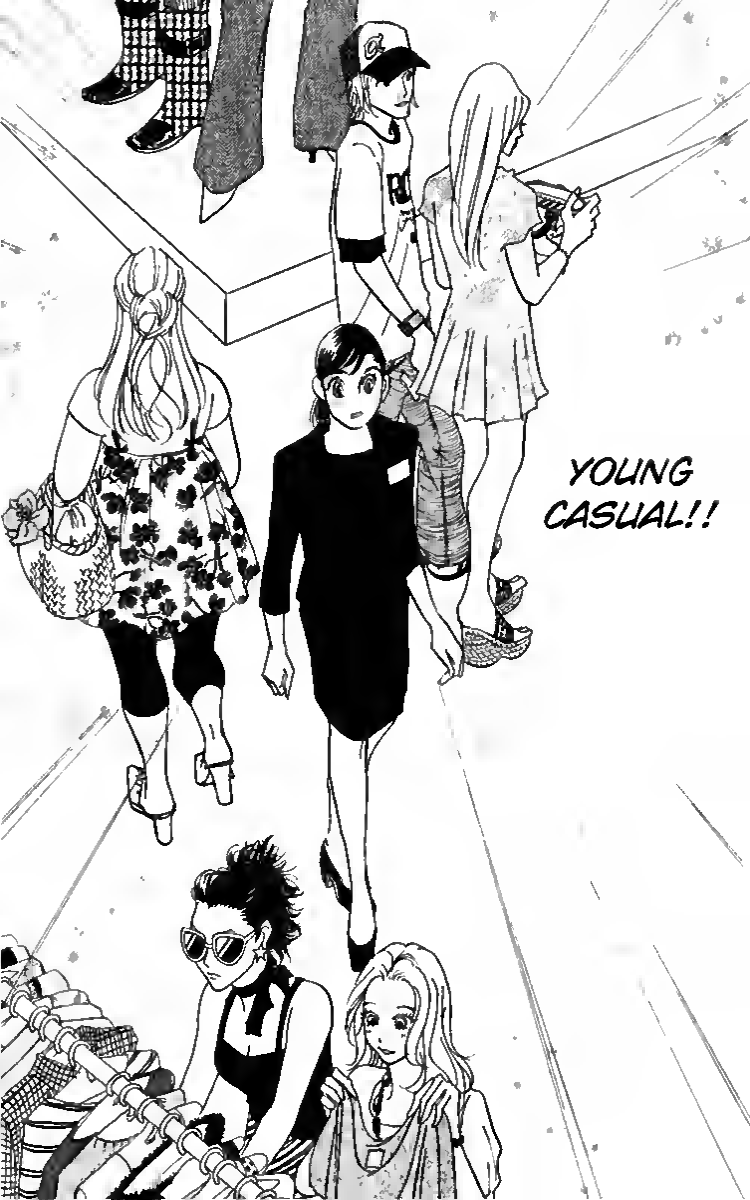
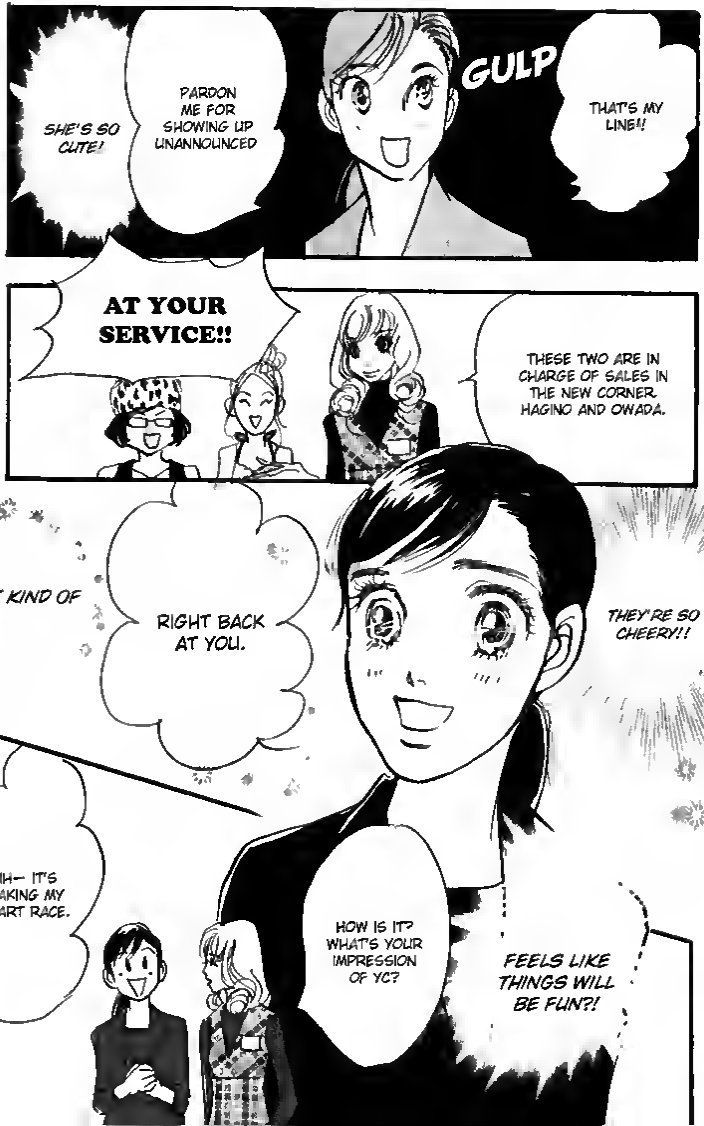
YUP! I'M STARTING TO GET EXCITED~!
THE SECOND FLOOR IS NEW TERRITORY FOR ME.
IT'S AN ADVENTURE!
THIS IS MY HOME TURF, WHERE THE ACTION IS
STAND, MEET, TALK, AND FEEL!!
THE CLUES ARE ONLY IN THIS SETTING.
SALES FLOOR ENTRANCE
BE QUIET
SMILE

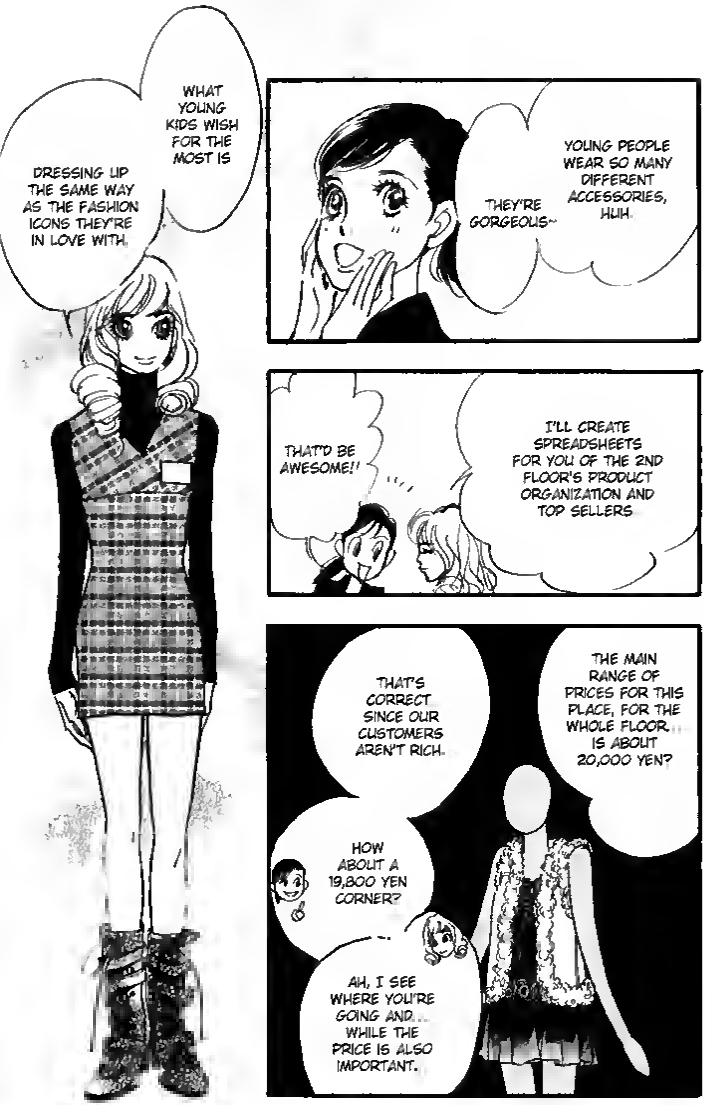
!!
STARTLE!
SQUEE!

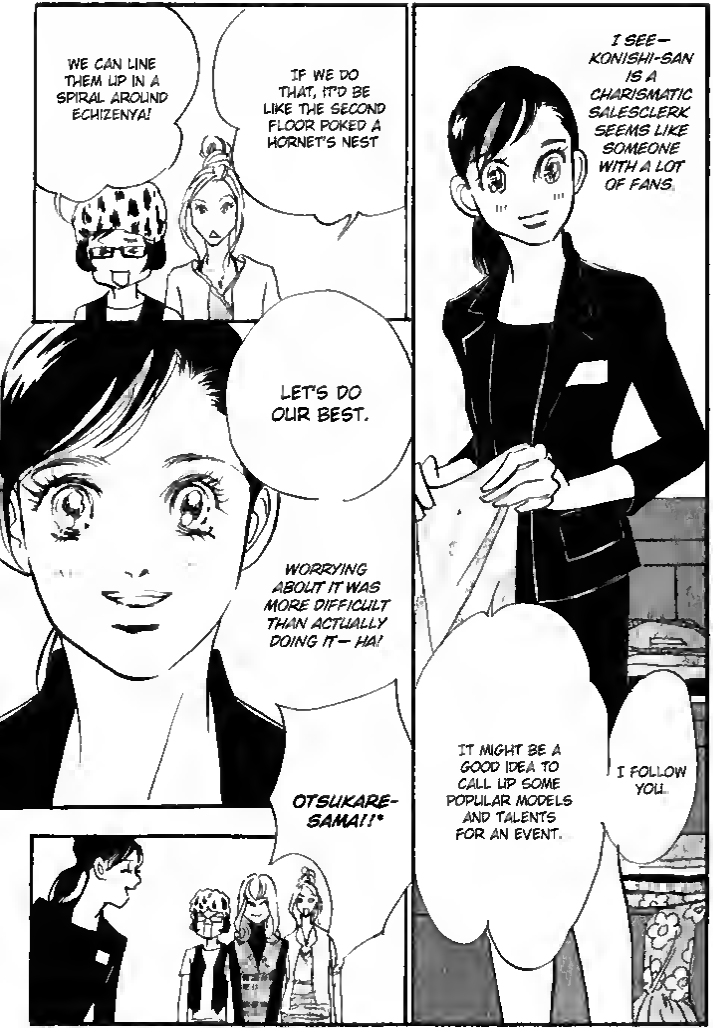
SIZZLING!!
SO YOUNG!!
AMAZING— IT'S IN FULL SWING.
SNIFF!
IT'S NOISY? IT SMELLS A LITTLE SWEATY?


YOUNG
CASUAL!!

ARE YOU AMANO-SAN FROM THE BUYERS' ROOM?
YES!
I'M Y.C.'S MAIN CHIEF, KONISHI MAMI.
I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING TOGETHER.

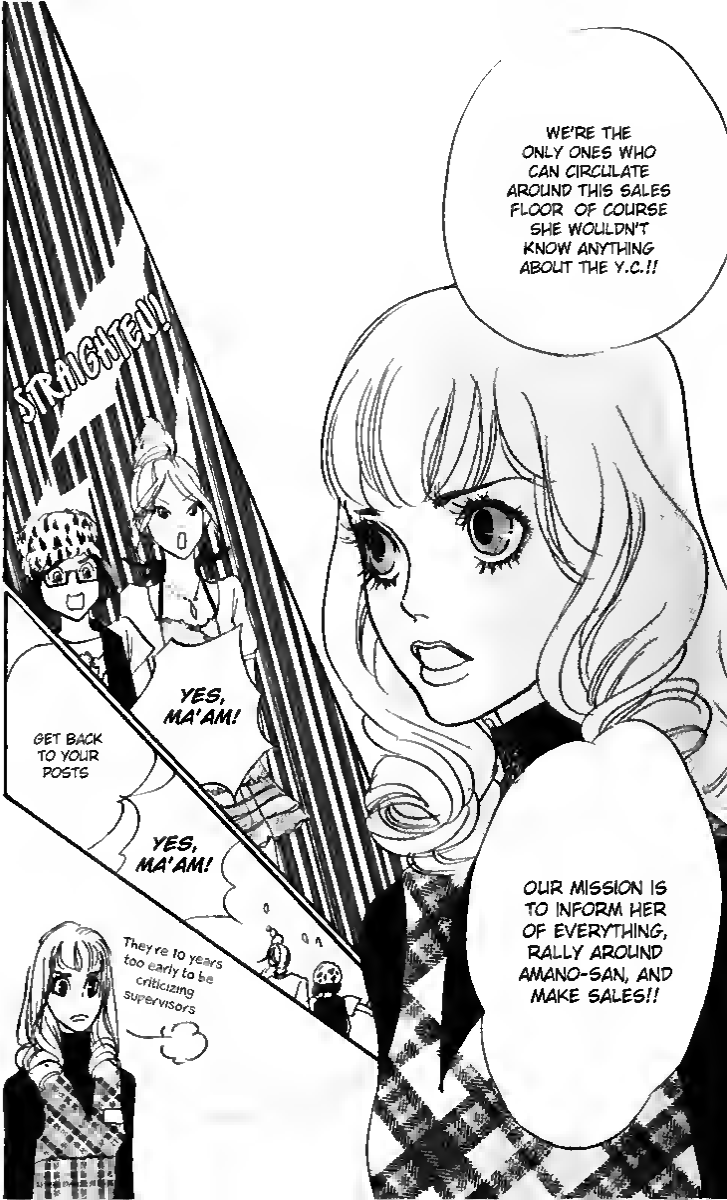

GULP
THAT'S MY LINE!!
PARDON ME FOR SHOWING UP UNANNOUNCED
SHE'S SO CUTE!
AT YOUR SERVICE!!
THESE TWO ARE IN CHARGE OF SALES IN THE NEW CORNER. HAGINO AND OWADA.
THEY'RE SO CHEERY!!
RIGHT BACK AT YOU.
IT KIND OF
FEELS LIKE THINGS WILL BE FUN?!
HOW IS IT? WHAT'S YOUR IMPRESSION OF YC?
UH— IT'S MAKING MY HEART RACE.

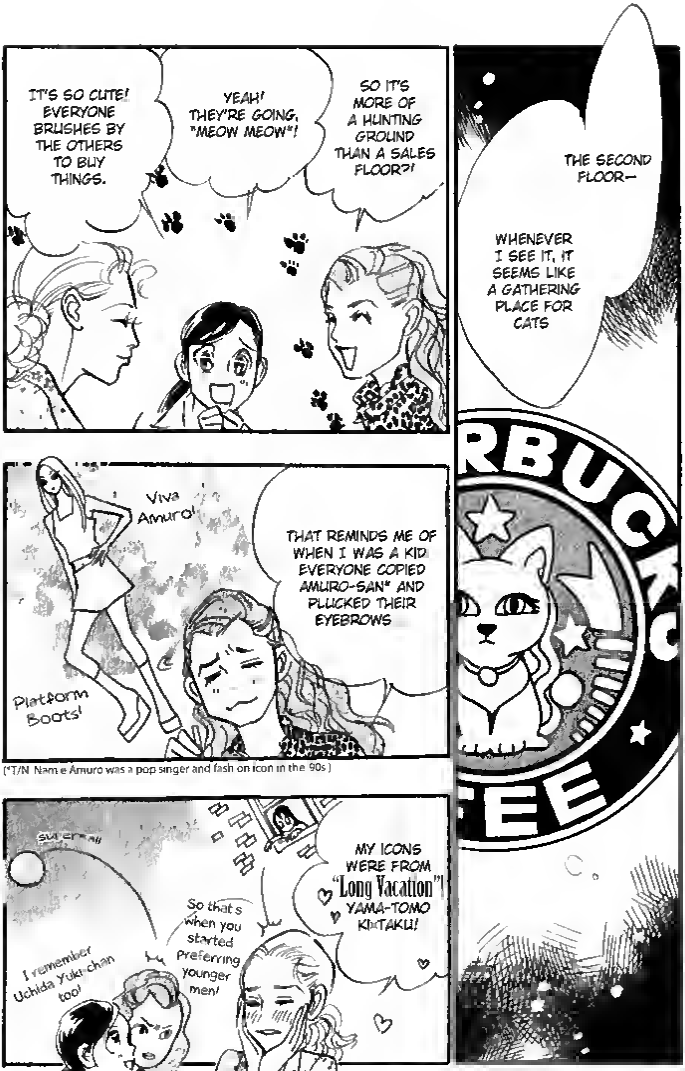

WHAT YOUNG KIDS WISH FOR THE MOST IS
DRESSING UP THE SAME WAY AS THE FASHION ICONS THEY'RE IN LOVE WITH.
YOUNG PEOPLE WEAR SO MANY DIFFERENT ACCESSORIES, HUH.
THEY'RE GORGEOUS~
I'LL CREATE SPREADSHEETS FOR YOU OF THE 2ND FLOOR'S PRODUCT ORGANIZATION AND TOP SELLERS
THAT'D BE AWESOME!!
THE MAIN RANGE OF PRICES FOR THIS PLACE, FOR THE WHOLE FLOOR... IS ABOUT 20,000 YEN?
THAT'S CORRECT SINCE OUR CUSTOMERS AREN'T RICH.
HOW ABOUT A 19,800 YEN CORNER?
AH, I SEE WHERE YOU'RE GOING AND... WHILE THE PRICE IS ALSO IMPORTANT.

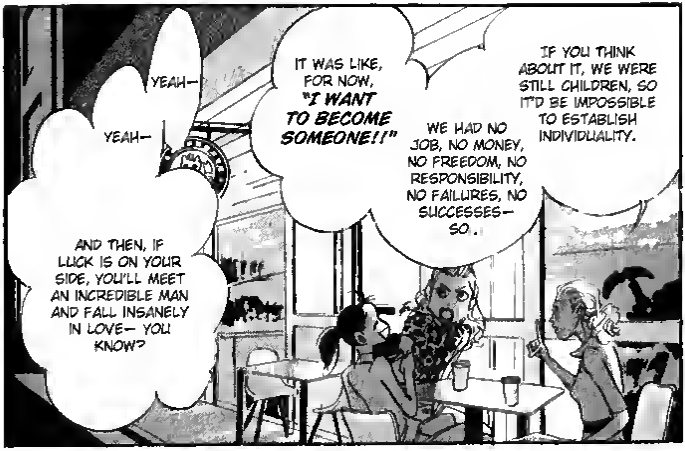

I SEE— KONISHI-SAN IS A CHARISMATIC SALESCLERK. SEEMS LIKE SOMEONE WITH A LOT OF FANS.
I FOLLOW YOU.
IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA TO CALL UP SOME POPULAR MODELS AND TALENTS FOR AN EVENT.
WE CAN LINE THEM UP IN A SPIRAL AROUND ECHIZENYA!
IF WE DO THAT, IT'D BE LIKE THE SECOND FLOOR POKED A HORNET'S NEST
LET'S DO OUR BEST.
WORRYING ABOUT IT WAS MORE DIFFICULT THAN ACTUALLY DOING IT— HA!
OTSUKARE-SAMA!!*

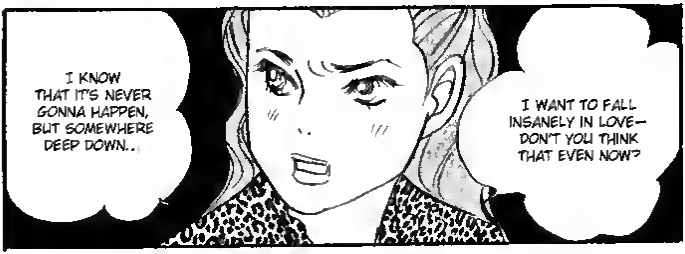
(*T.N. Polite phrase said to others when a job is done or when parting after work.)

HOW IRRITATING
SHOVE
Ah!
SHE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND A MAIDEN'S HEART IN THE SLIGHTEST SO SHE'S JUST A HEAVY-HANDED NANNY?
I HEARD SHE WAS A "GO-GETTER," BUT SHE'S UNSTUDIED.
DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT!


WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN CIRCULATE AROUND THIS SALES FLOOR OF COURSE SHE WOULDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE Y.C.!!
OUR MISSION IS TO INFORM HER OF EVERYTHING, RALLY AROUND AMANO-SAN, AND MAKE SALES!!
STRAIGHTEN!
YES, MA'AM!
GET BACK TO YOUR POSTS
YES, MA'AM!
They're 10 years too early to be criticizing supervisors


IT'S SO CUTE! EVERYONE BRUSHES BY THE OTHERS TO BUY THINGS.
YEAH! THEY'RE GOING, "MEOW MEOW"!
SO IT'S MORE OF A HUNTING GROUND THAN A SALES FLOOR?!
THE SECOND FLOOR--
WHENEVER I SEE IT, IT SEEMS LIKE A GATHERING PLACE FOR CATS
Viva Amuro!
Platform Boots!
THAT REMINDS ME OF WHEN I WAS A KID. EVERYONE COPIED AMURO-SAN* AND PLUCKED THEIR EYEBROWS
(*T/N Namie Amuro was a pop singer and fash on icon in the '90s.)
I remember Uchida Yuki-chan too!
So that's when you started preferring younger men!
MY ICONS WERE FROM "Long Vacation" YAMA-TOMO KIMTAKU!


YEAH—
YEAH—
AND THEN, IF LUCK IS ON YOUR SIDE, YOU'LL MEET AN INCREDIBLE MAN AND FALL INSANELY IN LOVE— YOU KNOW?
IT WAS LIKE, FOR NOW, "I WANT TO BECOME SOMEONE!!"
WE HAD NO JOB, NO MONEY, NO FREEDOM, NO RESPONSIBILITY, NO FAILURES, NO SUCCESSES— SO.
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, WE WERE STILL CHILDREN, SO IT'D BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH INDIVIDUALITY.


I KNOW THAT IT'S NEVER GONNA HAPPEN, BUT SOMEWHERE DEEP DOWN..
I WANT TO FALL INSANELY IN LOVE— DON'T YOU THINK THAT EVEN NOW?

Seriously?!
Shut up!
So that's why you..
SHE'S SENSIBLE, SMART, AND COLLECTED!
KONISHI MAMI-SAN SHE'S JUST ABOUT THE SAME HEIGHT AS ME, BUT SHE'S GOT A TINY FACE AND SHE'S GOT THAT DOLL-TYPE BEAUTY.
WHO IS THE REP FROM THE SECOND FLOOR?

SHE'S CAPABLE, MOTIVATED, AND KNOWS HOW TO LEAD
Well someone like me?
HUH?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
SHE'S TOUGH.
?
GOOD-BYE—
OTSU—!
ECHIZENYA
EH—! BUT THEN THAT WILL BE A BIG HELP—!!
SIP!

◆End of Chapter 39◆

Real Clothes
by Makimura Satoru
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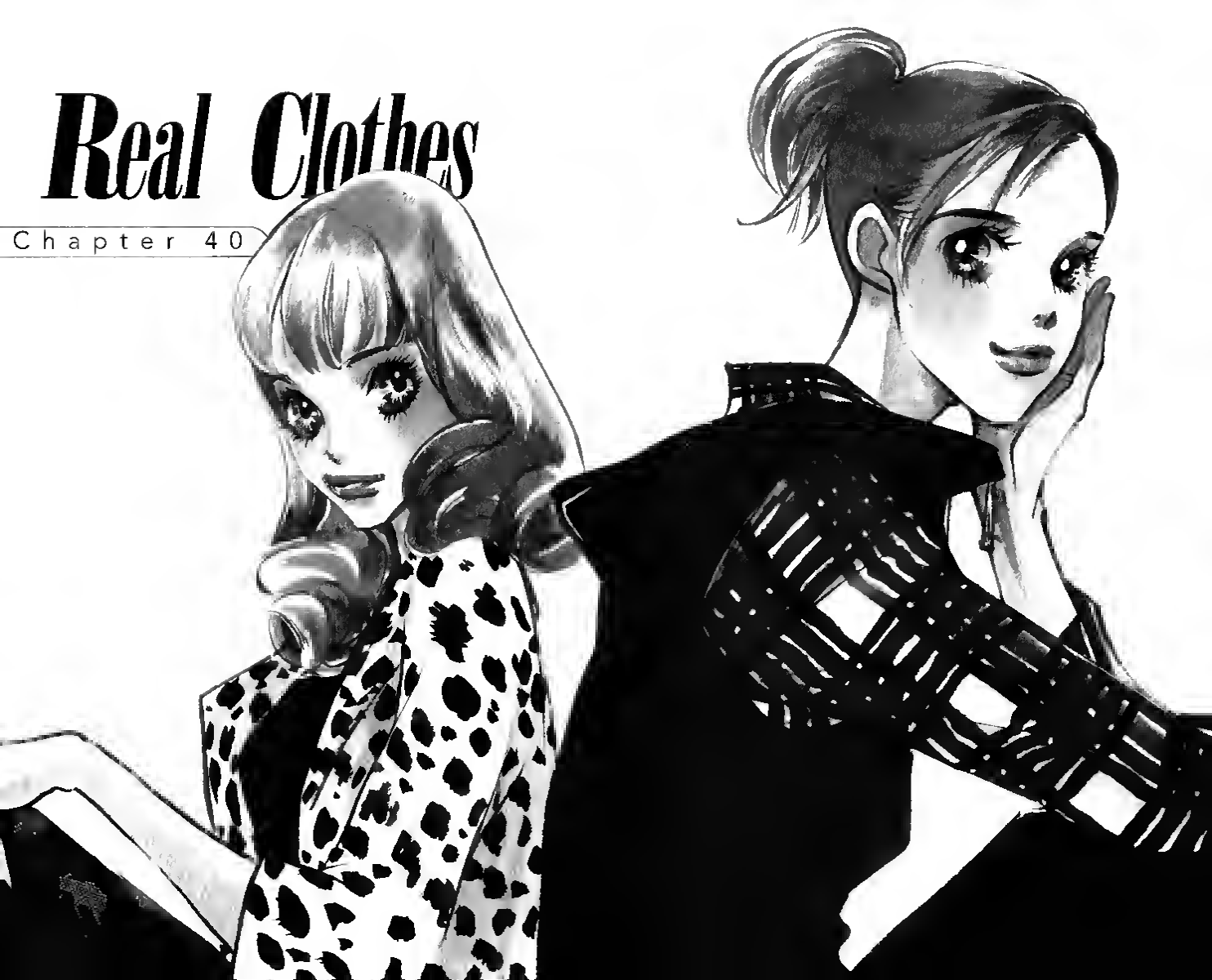
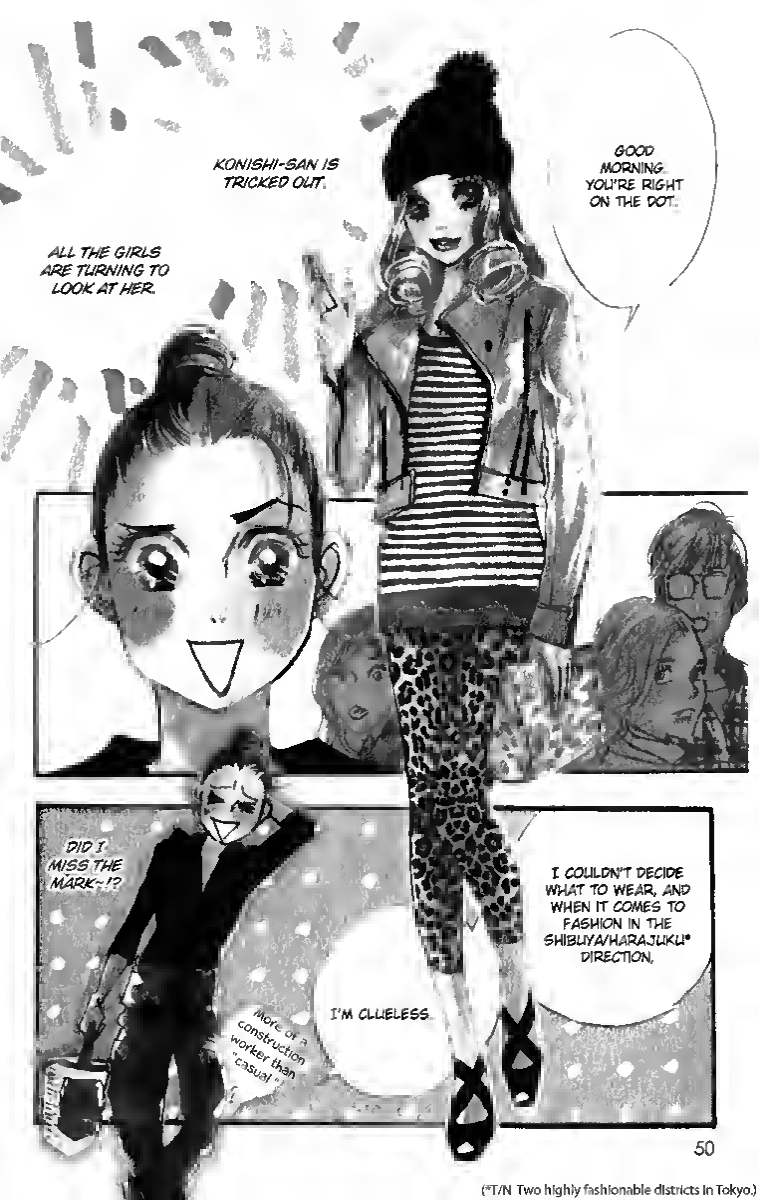
Proof-read by : Cyber_3
Harmilda
Typeset by : In Valen's Name
QC by | Maris

IF I THINK ABOUT IT, I'M STILL IN THE "YOUNG" CATEGORY. (I THINK.)
I WASN'T ABLE TO SPEAK WELL WHEN I INVITED A GUY INTO MY HOME.
TEN YEARS AGO, ALL I DID WAS CLUB ACTIVITIES WITH MY NOSE RUNNING.
AH!
KONISHI-SAN, SORRY I'M LATE!
EVEN THOUGH I HAD NO SKILLS AT ALL,
I YEARNED FOR LOVE.

Real Clothes

Chapter 40




KONISHI-SAN IS TRICKED OUT.
ALL THE GIRLS ARE TURNING TO LOOK AT HER.
GOOD MORNING. YOU'RE RIGHT ON THE DOT.
I COULDN'T DECIDE WHAT TO WEAR, AND WHEN IT COMES TO FASHION IN THE SHIBUYA/HARAJUKU* DIRECTION,
I'M CLUELESS.
More of a construction worker than "casual"
DID I MISS THE MARK~!?

(*T/N Two highly fashionable districts in Tokyo.)

UH—
NO GOOD? MY Y.C. IS THAT BAD?!
B-BUMP!

STA—RE!

LET'S GO, I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND THE Y.C. COMMUNITY.

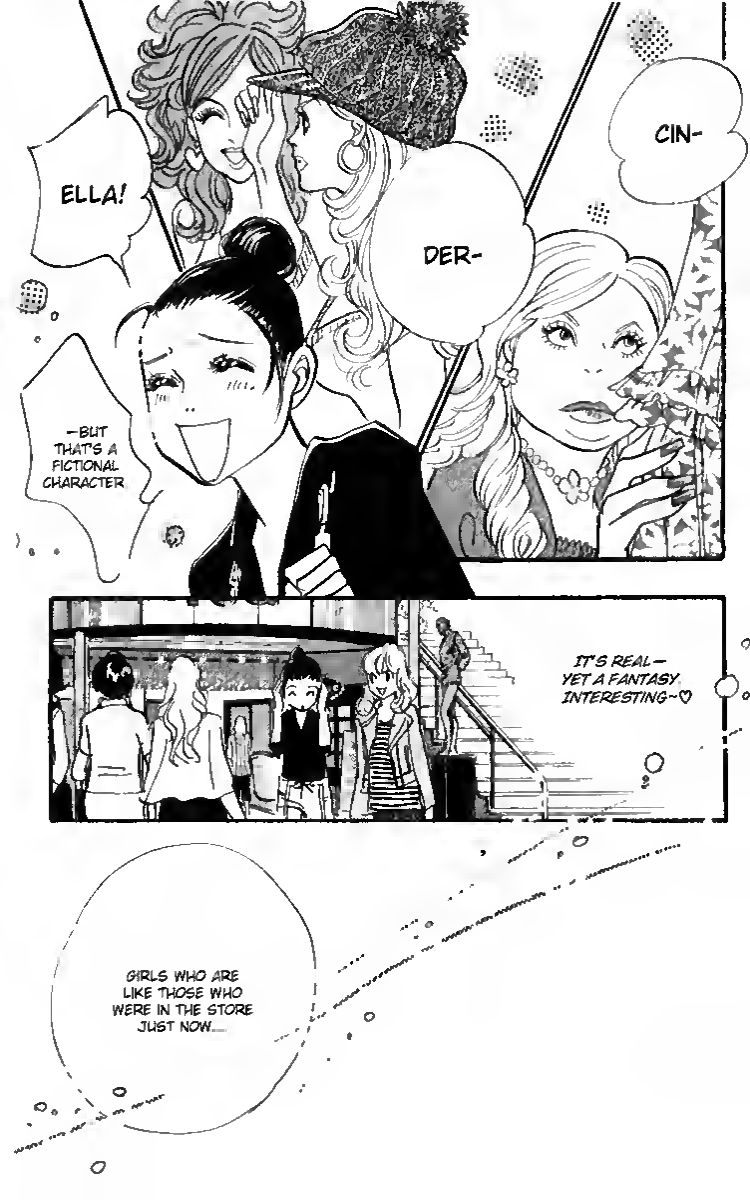
I'LL DO BETTER NEXT TIME.
SO THAT'S A "NO COMMENT," HUH.

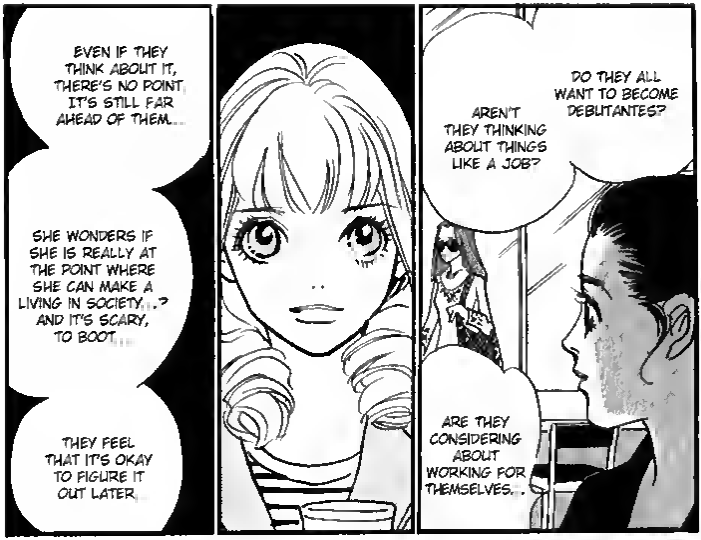
BOOM!
BOOM!
BOOM!
SHAKA!
THUMP!
SHAKA!
WH-
SHAKA!
THUMP!
THUMP!
SHAKA!
SHAKA!
THUMP!
WOAH!

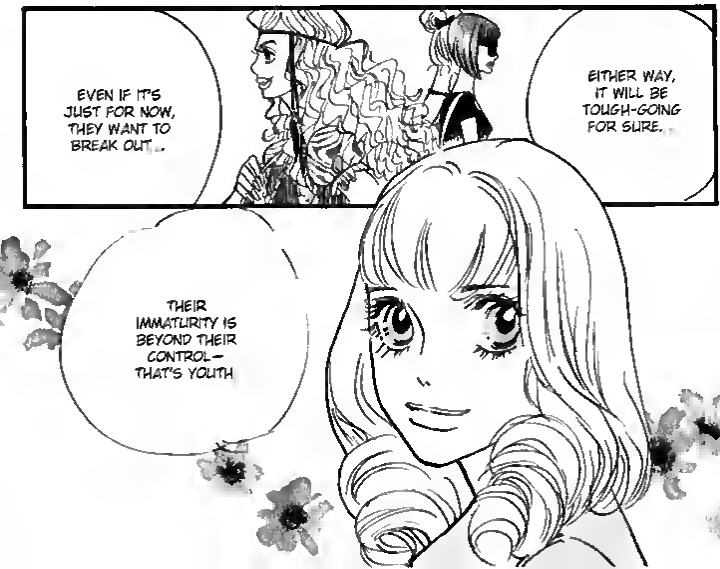
PRETTY MUCH EVERYTHING IS MADE IN VIETNAM AND CHINA
NOTHING IS MADE DOMESTICALLY. THAT'S BECAUSE
IT WON'T BE BOUGHT UNLESS IT'S CHEAP.
HOW REAL!
PEOPLE WILL PUT UP WITH SOME FRAYING, THEIR PAIRING, THE VARIETY OF STITCHING, AND THE MISMATCH IN SIZE
A wider range of sizes is impossible!
I want this! ♡
—THE CLASSIFICATIONS OF STYLES ARE "STREET," "NATURAL-CUTE," "ROCK," "KIREIME*," ETC. IT'S THE SAME AS WITH ADULTS.

(*T/N "Kirei me" is a style of men's fash on born n the prev ous decade with a focus on slimness and a "cleaner" look. It s also referred to as "orthodox type" or "typical type")

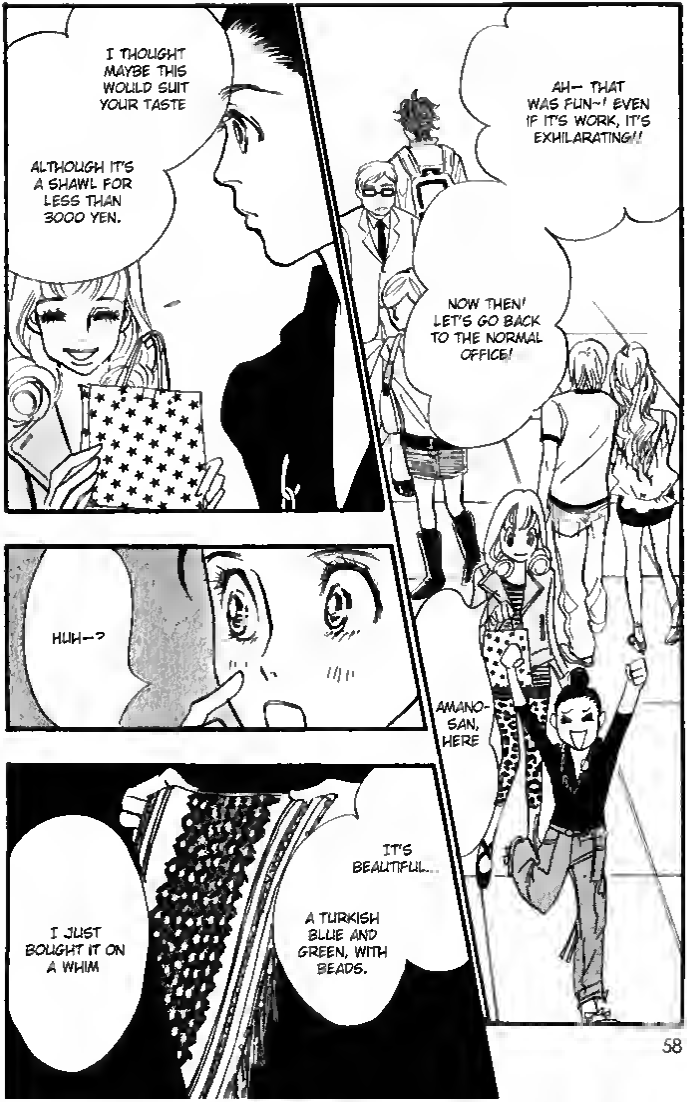
CINDERELLA.
TURN!
IT'S A SPARKLING CHAOS!
WHAT IS THE GIRLS' IDEAL FEMALE IMAGE?

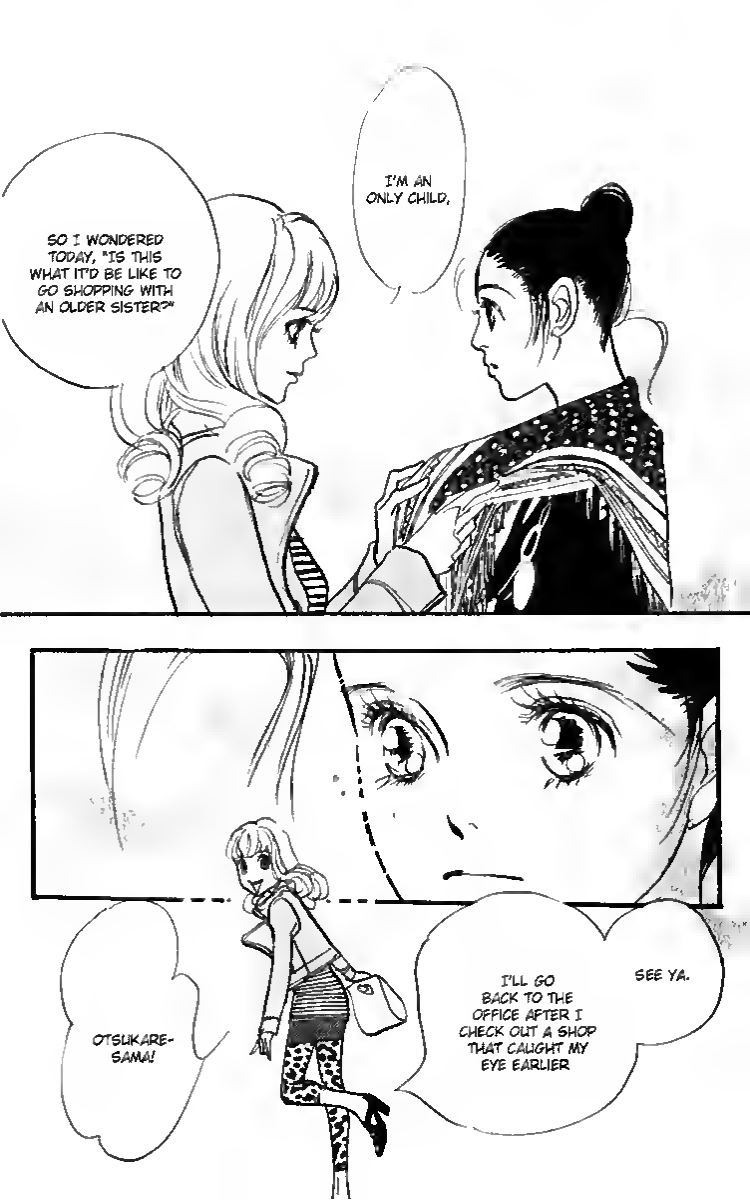

CIN-
DER-
ELLA!
—BUT THAT'S A FICTIONAL CHARACTER
IT'S REAL— YET A FANTASY INTERESTING~♡
GIRLS WHO ARE LIKE THOSE WHO WERE IN THE STORE JUST NOW...


DO THEY ALL WANT TO BECOME DEBUTANTES?
AREN'T THEY THINKING ABOUT THINGS LIKE A JOB?
ARE THEY CONSIDERING ABOUT WORKING FOR THEMSELVES...
EVEN IF THEY THINK ABOUT IT, THERE'S NO POINT. IT'S STILL FAR AHEAD OF THEM...
SHE WONDERS IF SHE IS REALLY AT THE POINT WHERE SHE CAN MAKE A LIVING IN SOCIETY...? AND IT'S SCARY, TO BOOT...
THEY FEEL THAT IT'S OKAY TO FIGURE IT OUT LATER.

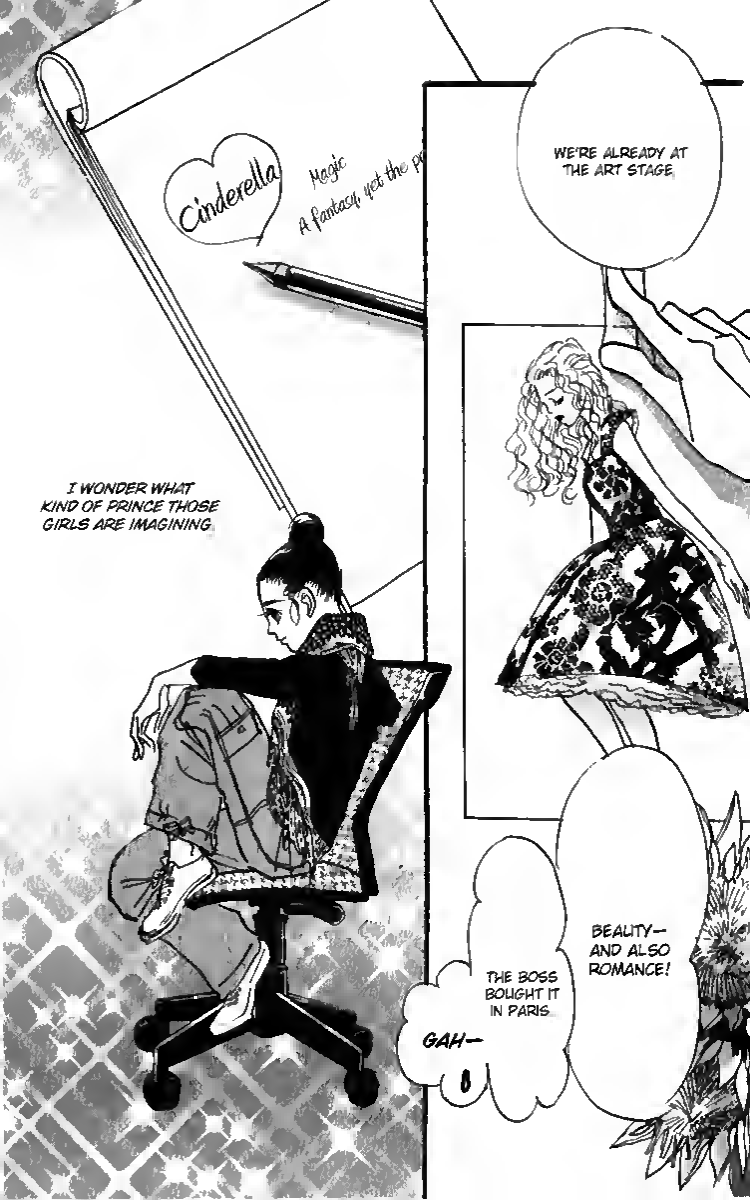

EITHER WAY, IT WILL BE TOUGH-GOING FOR SURE...
EVEN IF IT'S JUST FOR NOW, THEY WANT TO BREAK OUT...
THEIR IMMATURITY IS BEYOND THEIR CONTROL— THAT'S YOUTH.

INTENSE.
I THINK THEY HAVE A NORMAL INTEREST IN IT
HOW DO KIDS FEEL ABOUT BEING "ECO-FRIENDLY"?
OH!
A T-SHIRT IS A Y.C BASIC!
A COOL ECO-T! PERHAPS IT'S OLD FASHIONED OF ME TO IMAGINE THAT YOUNG PEOPLE EQUALS T-SHIRTS?
Like this ♡
LET'S PUT IT IN THE PLAN


I THOUGHT MAYBE THIS WOULD SUIT YOUR TASTE
ALTHOUGH IT'S A SHAWL FOR LESS THAN 3000 YEN.
AH— THAT WAS FUN~! EVEN IF IT'S WORK, IT'S EXHILARATING!!
NOW THEN! LET'S GO BACK TO THE NORMAL OFFICE!
HUH—?
AMANO-SAN, HERE
IT'S BEAUTIFUL...
A TURKISH BLUE AND GREEN, WITH BEADS.
I JUST BOUGHT IT ON A WHIM

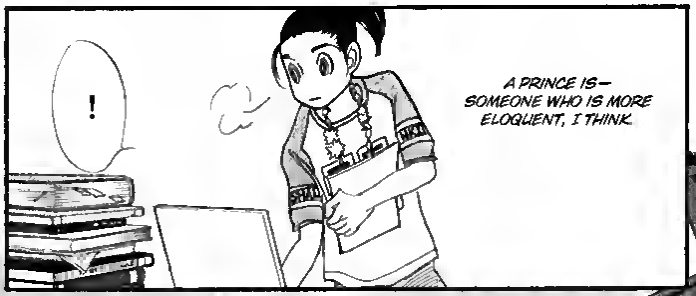

I'M AN ONLY CHILD.
SO I WONDERED TODAY, "IS THIS WHAT IT'D BE LIKE TO GO SHOPPING WITH AN OLDER SISTER?"
SEE YA.
I'LL GO BACK TO THE OFFICE AFTER I CHECK OUT A SHOP THAT CAUGHT MY EYE EARLIER
OTSUKARE-SAMA!

GOOD MORNING!
OH—
THAT SUITS YOU, CHAN LULI?
YOU'RE FITTING IN WELL.
2980 YEN. SMALL ITEMS ARE A BASIC OF Y C.
—NOW,
HERE'S THE 200,000 YEN DRESS WE TALKED ABOUT...
UGH?! 200,000 YEN!! THAT!
THERE'S A HUGE GAP BETWEEN NOW AND A MOMENT AGO~!!


Cinderella
Magic
A fantasy, yet the pr
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF PRINCE THOSE GIRLS ARE IMAGINING
WE'RE ALREADY AT THE ART STAGE
BEAUTY— AND ALSO ROMANCE!
THE BOSS BOUGHT IT IN PARIS
GAH—

FWISH—!
A...
PRINCE?!
YO-!!
I'M BACK!
You've returned
Hey-!
Welcome back!

Real Clothes 6

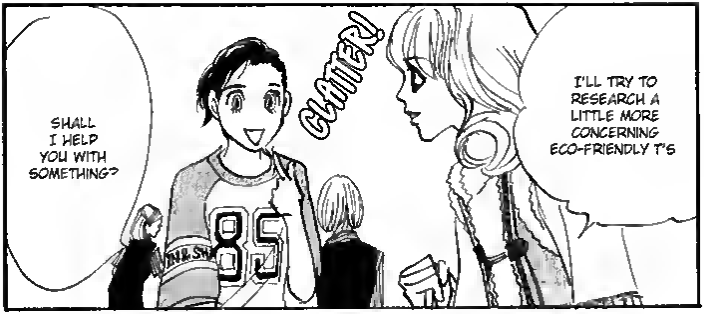


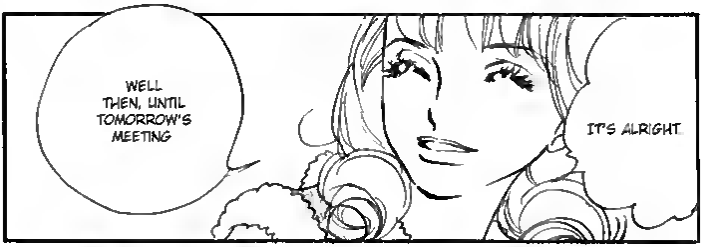
KONISHI-SAN, YOU'RE SO COURTEOUS
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
—RATHER,
I'M SO SORRY, WHEN YOU'RE SO BUSY. THANK YOU FOR POINTING OUT WHERE WE SHOULD MAKE INQUIRIES
Ameno-same
Before the meeting I would like to prep with you downstairs Could you give me 10 minutes of your time?
- Konishi Mami

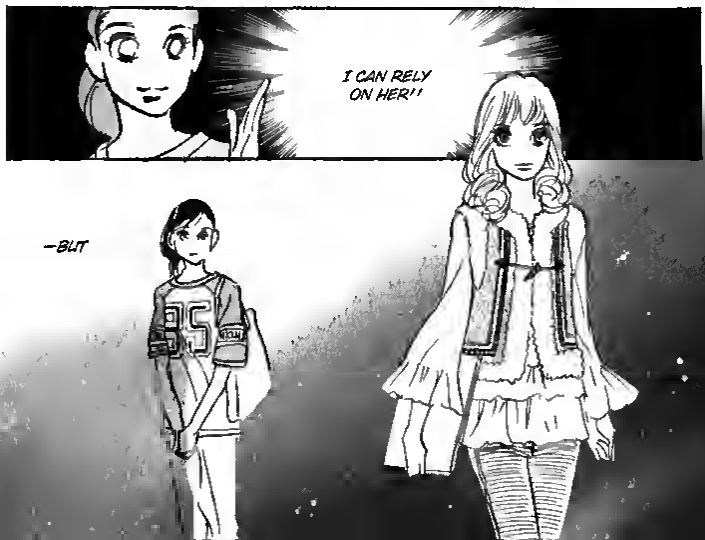
AH! ME TOO! I THOUGHT THE SAME THING
—ALSO, I WANT TO PUT THE WORD "CINDERELLA" INTO THE TITLE
THE IMAGE COLOR IS A CHIC PINK, RATHER THAN A GAUDY PINK
THE LAYOUT OF THIS CORNER FEELS LIKE IT'S PACKED TIGHT.
THIS IS A LIST OF DESIGNERS I WANT TO STOCK.
COLOR GUIDE
EARLIER, YOU SPOKE OF ESTABLISHING AN ICON. THIS GIRL IS PRETTY MUCH RIGHT AT THE CENTER OF IT ALL— YURIA-CHAN.
ALSO,
WOW, SHE'S CUTE!
GULP
KONISHI-SAN IS SO ADEPT!!
I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOUR OPINION ON THIS.
—WITH THIS FEELING, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Real Clothes 6

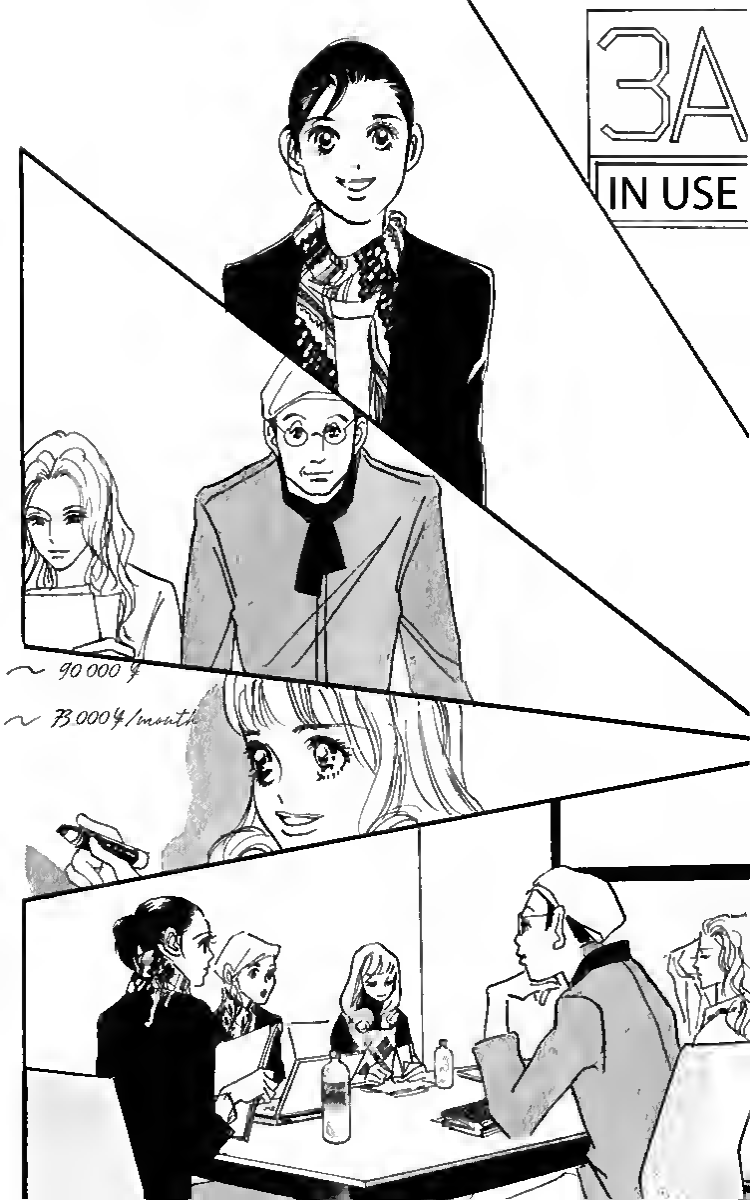
IF WE DO THIS WITH ECHIZENYA QUALITY, NATURALLY, WE'D HAVE TO DO IT WITH ORGANIC— I THOUGHT,
SO I ASKED A DESIGNER I KNOW TO DO THE PRELIMINARY CALCULATIONS, HOWEVER,
FLIP
AH! YES. ACTUALLY...
YEP! I THINK IT'S GOOD. IT COMMUNICATES AN AMAZING IMAGE.
UM... WHAT ABOUT THE "ECO T"?
THE NOMINAL RETAIL PRICE FOR ONE SHIRT WOULD END UP BEING 9500 YEN...
ARGH~H
Even an adult would pause at over 5000 yen.
IT'S NO GOOD— RIGHT?
DISPLEASED...
RIGHT. IT'S TOO BAD...


SHALL I HELP YOU WITH SOMETHING?
CLATTER!
I'LL TRY TO RESEARCH A LITTLE MORE CONCERNING ECO-FRIENDLY T'S

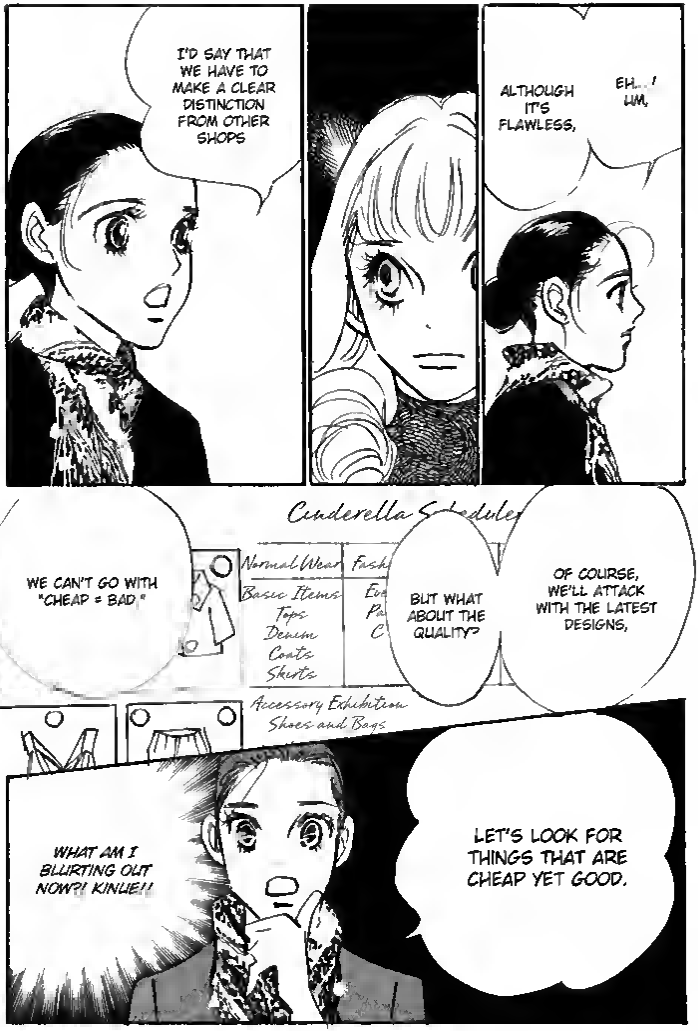

WELL THEN, UNTIL TOMORROW'S MEETING
IT'S ALRIGHT


I CAN RELY ON HER!!
—BUT

BUT, BUT, BUT!
BUT..BUT..! WHEN THINGS ARE RUNNING SO SMOOTHLY, THERE'S NO NEED FOR ME TO ADD MY 2 CENTS SO CLUMSILY.
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING MYSELF...
Droop...
IT KIND OF SEEMS LIKE I'M BEING PUSHED INTO THE BACKGROUND..
IS IT MY IMAGINATION?
It's lonely

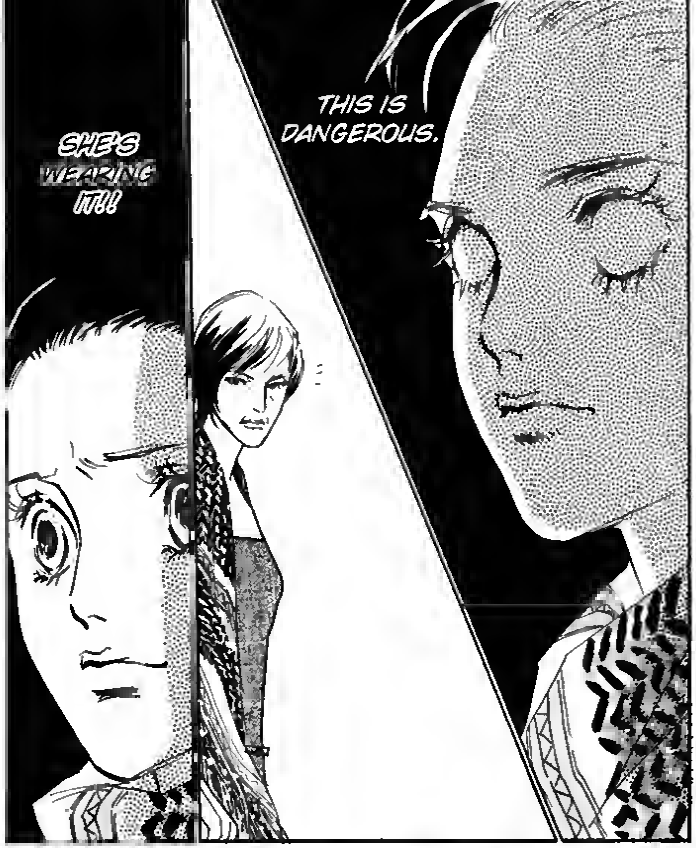

3A
IN USE
~ 90 000 ¥
~ 13 000 ¥/month

—SO, HOW IS IT? WHAT'S YOUR VERDICT, AMANO-SAN
GASP!


I'D SAY THAT WE HAVE TO MAKE A CLEAR DISTINCTION FROM OTHER SHOPS
ALTHOUGH IT'S FLAWLESS,
EH...! UM,
Cinderella Schedule
Normal Wear
Basic Items
Tops
Denim
Coats
Skirts
WE CAN'T GO WITH "CHEAP = BAD."
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE QUALITY?
OF COURSE, WE'LL ATTACK WITH THE LATEST DESIGNS,
Accessory Exhibition
Shoes and Bags
LET'S LOOK FOR THINGS THAT ARE CHEAP YET GOOD.
WHAT AM I BLURTING OUT NOW?! KINLIE!!

I... FEEL LIKE THINGS AREN'T GOING TO RUN.
I THINK I'M TALKING MORE ABOUT A NEW WAY OF LOOKING AT IT.
Make your directions precise!!
NO!!
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT A "DIFFERENT ROUTE."
SINCE YOU ARE THE LEADER, AMANO-SAN, IF YOU SAY— TAKE A DIFFERENT ROUTE, WE'LL DO IT.
PLEASE GIVE US ONE EXTRA DAY FOR THE CONCEPT. WE ADJOURN FOR TODAY.
I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT FOR MYSELF!!
I'M AN IDIOT. I JUST REALIZED IT NOW.
WE CAN'T GO WITH BEING "JUST CHEAP"!!
SLIDE
3A
OPEN

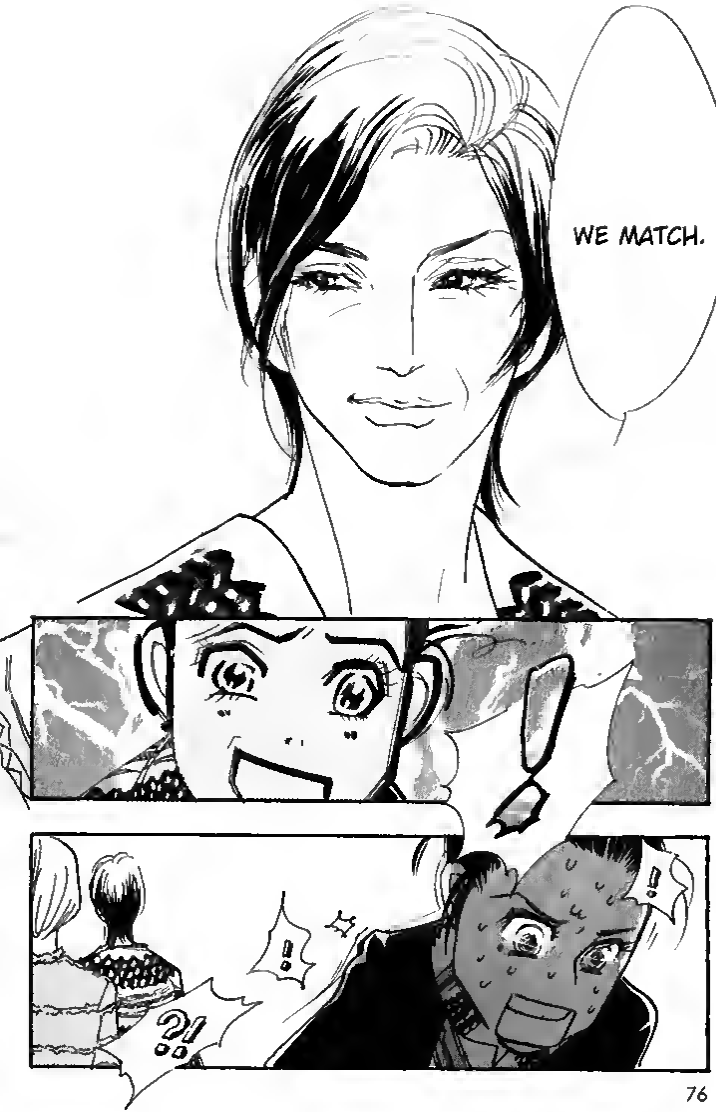
MIKI-SAMA!!
JUMP!

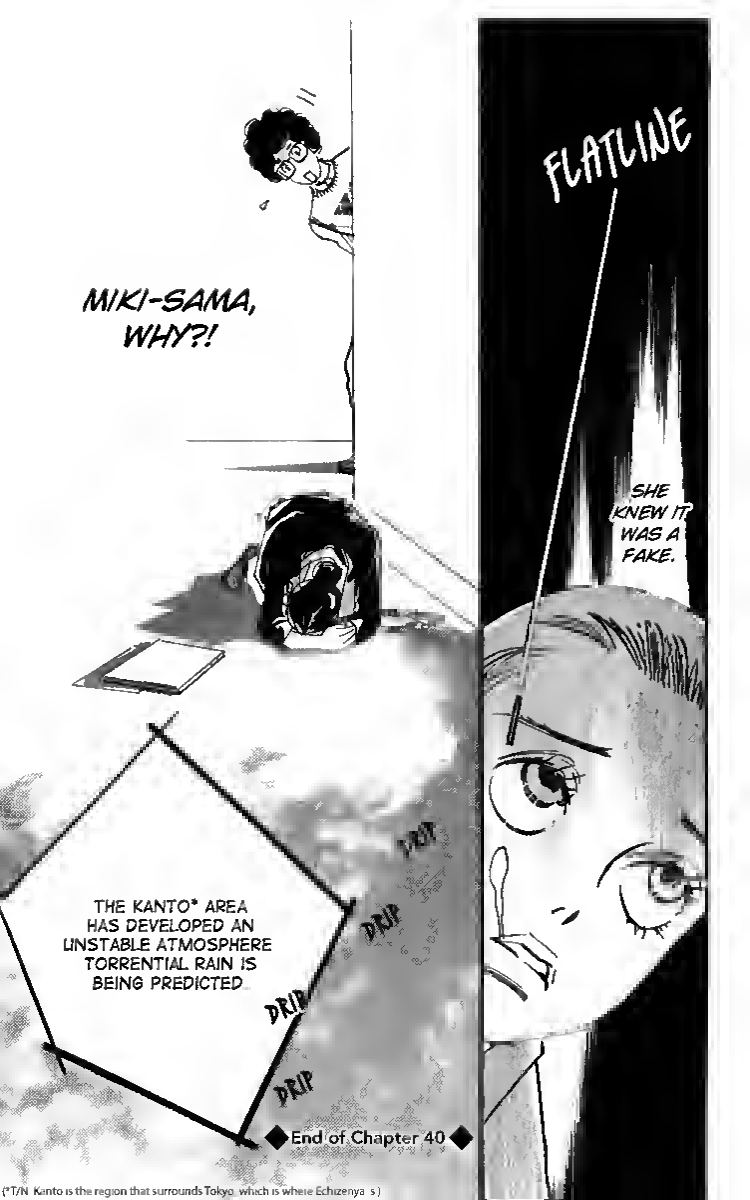

THIS IS DANGEROUS.
SHE'S WEARING IT!!

CLACK!
MINE IS 2980 YEN.
MORE LIKE, MIKI-SAMA'S SHAWL IS A REAL 24000 YEN CHAN LULU.
CLICK!
CLACK!

EMBARRASSING.
EMBARASSING!!
EMBARRASSING.
CLACK!
CLACK!
THE INDUSTRY'S NUMBER ONE CONNOISSEUR MEL SOMA WON FAIR AND SQUARE FROM ME.
SHE'S DEFINITELY GOING TO SAY SOMETHING TO ME!!
CLACK!
CLACK!

TREMBLE!
SHE'S GOING TO TELL ME "WEARING CHEAP ITEMS WILL RESULT IN A CHEAP LIFE"!!
TREMBLE!
TREMBLE!


WE MATCH.
!
!
!
?!



(*T/N Kanto is the region that surrounds Tokyo, which is where Echizenya-s)

Real Clothes

by Makimura Satoru

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Proof-read by : Cyber_3
Cleaned by : Paralda
Typeset by : In Velen's Name
QC by : Kiltmonian

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Real Clothes

Chapter 41

KA-BOOM!
KA-BOOM!

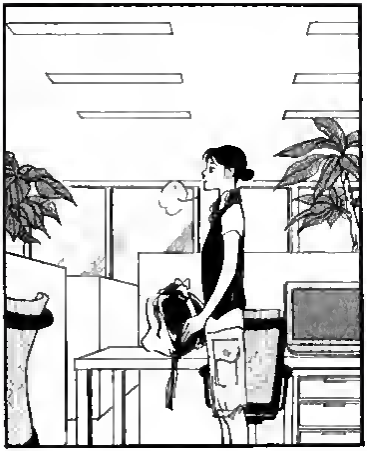
(*T/N: A respectful way to term for one's mother)
(**T/N: A familiar yet respectful term for a grandmother)

Real Clothes 6

JUMP!
KA-BOOM—!!
EEEEEK!
WE MATCH.

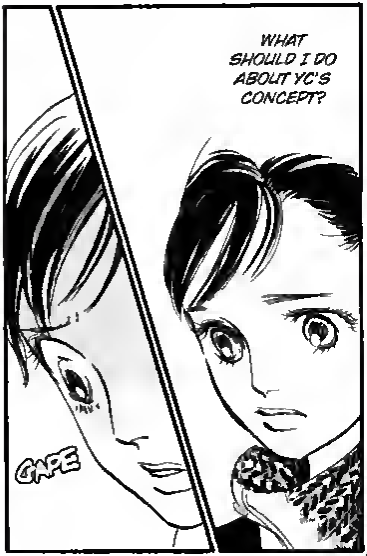
BOOOOM!!
AH
FLA
SH!
Weat
Ne
CLICK
Weather
News
DAMAGE FROM THE TORRENTIAL RAIN IN THE KANTO AREA—
PANT
PANT
WHOA-
PANT
WHOA-
WHOA-
WHOA
HUFF
UGH.
PO—UR
ANYBODY...
EXCEPT TATSUYA.
SOMEBODY...
PO—UR

KA-BOOOOM!
I WANNA GET MARRIIIIIED!!
GOOD-NESS.
YOU'RE UP EXTRA EARLY THIS MORNING
GOOD MORNING
IT SEEMS LIKE THE TRAINS ARE A MESS, SO I'M OUT EARLY...
YES, THE RAIN WAS DREADFUL.
HAVE A GOOD DAY

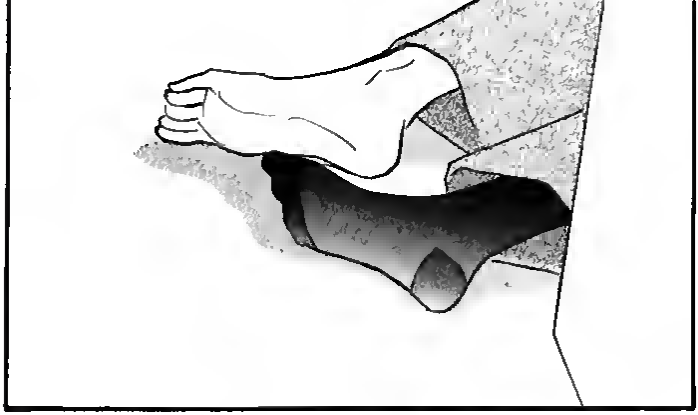


AND THEN— BESIDE ALL THAT.

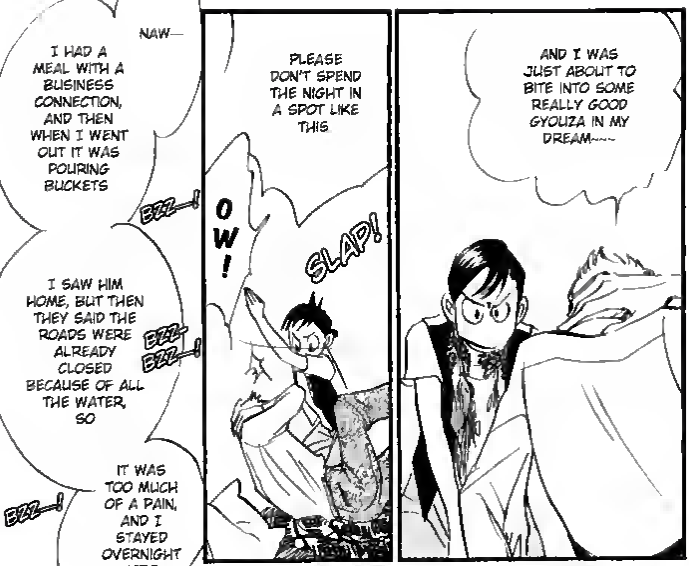
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME IN MY ENTIRE LIFE THAT I EXPERIENCED THUNDER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. AT THIS RATE, THE WORLD IS GOING TO GET STRANGER...

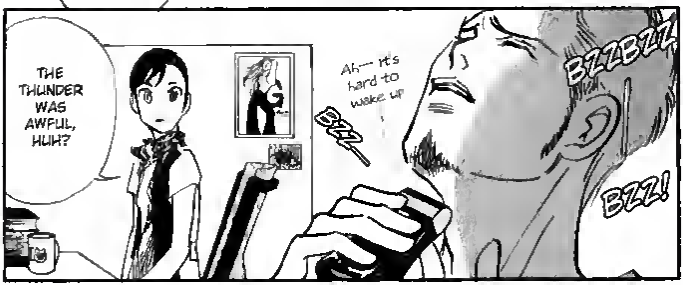


CLICK!



ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!
BOSS?!
!
Knock it off
BLISSFUL SMILE!


AND I WAS JUST ABOUT TO BITE INTO SOME REALLY GOOD GYOUZA IN MY DREAM~~~
PLEASE DON'T SPEND THE NIGHT IN A SPOT LIKE THIS
SLAP!
O W !
NAW—
I HAD A MEAL WITH A BUSINESS CONNECTION, AND THEN WHEN I WENT OUT IT WAS POURING BUCKETS
BZZ—!
I SAW HIM HOME, BUT THEN THEY SAID THE ROADS WERE ALREADY CLOSED BECAUSE OF ALL THE WATER, SO
BZZZ BZZZ—!
IT WAS TOO MUCH OF A PAIN, AND I STAYED OVERNIGHT HERE.
BZZZ—!


THE THUNDER WAS AWFUL, HUH?
Ah— it's hard to wake up
BZZZ
BZZLBZZ!
BZZ!

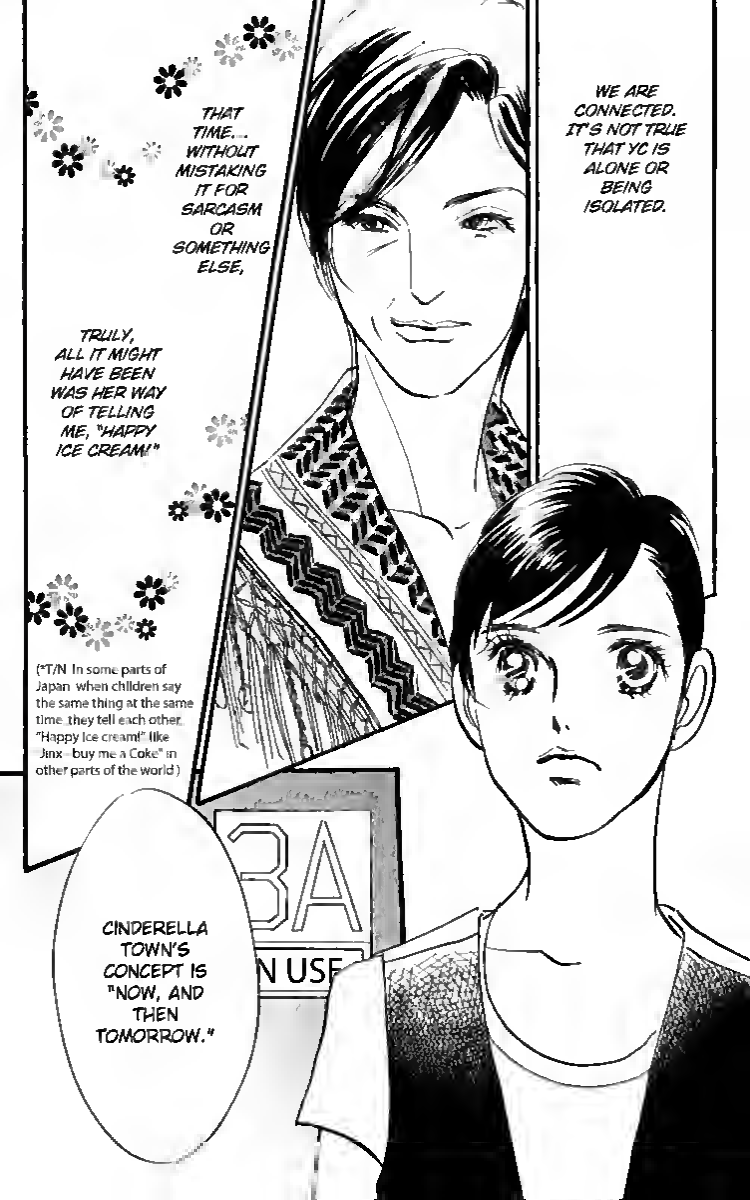
IT WAS INCREDIBLE! IT BOOMED! THE TRAINS ARE STILL TREMBLING NOW!
WHAT?
Was there ?
THUNDER?

A DREAM?! WAS IT A DREAM ONLY I HAD?!
!!
HEH~~~
REALLY
I AM——
The damage in each area is.
So it's true—
NO, NO, THAT'S NOT IT. HE'S JUST BEING CHEEKY.
YESTERDAY, WHEN I PASSED BY JINBO-BUCHOU, I WORE THIS SCARF AND MY HEART WAS POUNDING.
JUST FAR TOO OVERWHELMED.

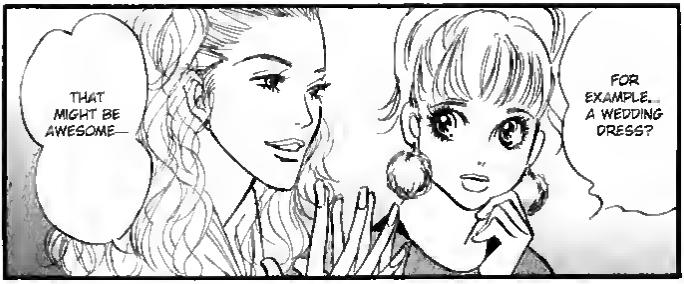
AND DESPITE THAT, SHE SAID TO ME, "WE MATCH."—I THOUGHT I WAS ABOUT TO DIE!
MINE WAS A CHEAP IMITATION, AND BUCHOU'S SEEMED LIKE THE REAL THING, OF COURSE.
ISN'T THAT JUST HER EYESIGHT GOING?
BPUT!
THIS GUY!!
THE DUEL AT THE PARTY VENUE
HA HA HA HA
SINCE IT'S THE SAME DRESS, IT'S A BATTLE OF WHAT'S ON THE INSIDE
IT WAS BUCHOU'S VICTORY.
SHE SAID, "WE MATCH." THE ACTRESS WITHDREW.
IN THE END, BUCHOU APPROACHED THE ACTRESS AND
IT WAS A GAME OF CHICKEN
GEH!
EVERYONE AROUND THEM WENT ASHEN
THERE WAS THIS ONE TIME, JINBO-BUCHOU HAD ON THE SAME DRESS AS SOME SUPER HUGE ACTRESS
MIKI LEGEND OF...

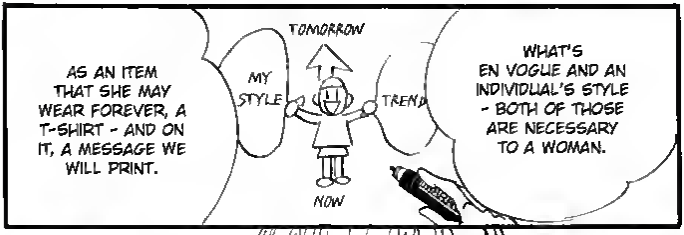
TOMORROW IS.. SURVIVAL...?
That's right! Bread, cheese, and wine will be in jeopardy!
GASP!
Beside that, won't cooking be a problem?
IN TEN YEARS, THERE MAY NO LONGER BE ANY EVENING SHOWERS, OR LIGHT DRIZZLES, OR RAINY SEASONS ANYMORE.
If it turns into the tropics, winter clothes will disappear — and even though I love my boring coat!
I WASN'T EMBARRASSED ABOUT IT BEING SOMETHING CHEAP,
BUT BECAUSE I LOST MY SELF-CONFIDENCE...?
GOOD MORNING!
AMANO-SAN, WERE YOU OKAY IN ALL THE THUNDER YESTERDAY? YOU MUST HAVE BEEN SO DISTRAUGHT.
"TOMORROW," AND CAN'T THINK OF IT.
YOUNG WOMEN ARE SCARED OF
I WAS SELLING FUTONS WITHOUT EVEN THINKING ABOUT TOMORROW.
EVEN MYSELF-

NEXT—
I THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT KIND OF PERSON I WANT TO BECOME.
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I SAW THE REALITY OF MY OWN APPEARANCE.
THEN I MET AN EXCEPTIONAL SUPERIOR NAMED MIKI-SAMA AND THOUGHT ABOUT THE FUTURE FOR THE FIRST TIME.

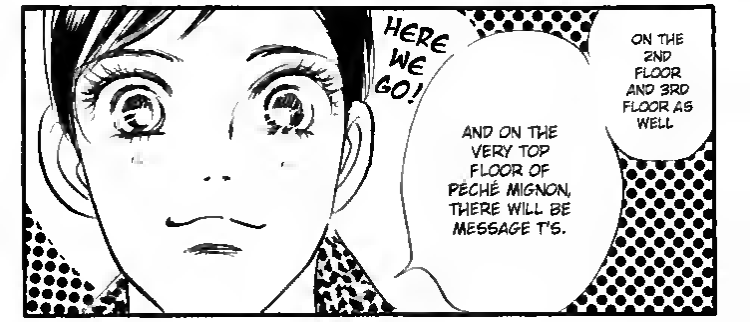

THAT TIME... WITHOUT MISTAKING IT FOR SARCASM OR SOMETHING ELSE,
TRULY, ALL IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN WAS HER WAY OF TELLING ME, "HAPPY ICE CREAM!"
(*T/N In some parts of Japan when children say the same thing at the same time, they tell each other, "Happy Ice cream!" like "Jinx - buy me a Coke" in other parts of the world.)
WE ARE CONNECTED. IT'S NOT TRUE THAT YC IS ALONE OR BEING ISOLATED.
CINDERELLA TOWN'S CONCEPT IS "NOW, AND THEN TOMORROW."

Real Clothes 6

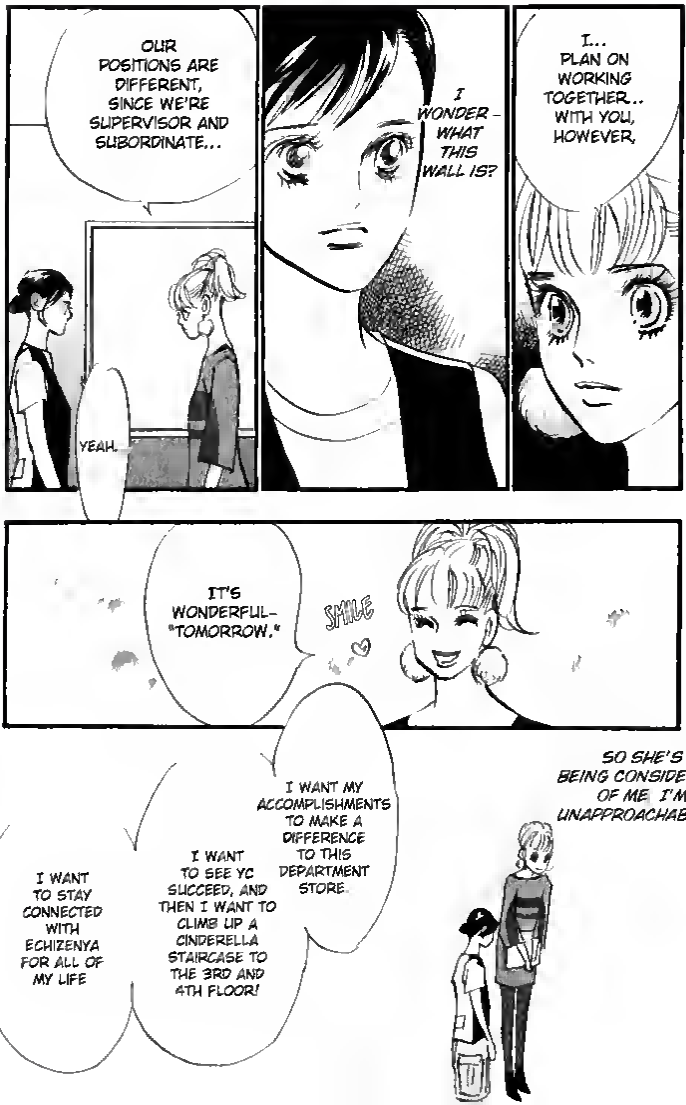



AS AN ITEM THAT SHE MAY WEAR FOREVER, A T-SHIRT - AND ON IT, A MESSAGE WE WILL PRINT.
TOMORROW
MY STYLE
TREND
NOW
WHAT'S EN VOGUE AND AN INDIVIDUAL'S STYLE - BOTH OF THOSE ARE NECESSARY TO A WOMAN.

THE PRICE OF THE T-SHIRT WILL INCREASE A BIT. THE QUALITY WILL BE ABOVE AVERAGE.
WE'LL MAKE ITEMS THAT CAN BE DISPLAYED ON EVERY FLOOR FOR WOMEN OF ALL AGES.
INTERESTING!


HERE WE GO!
AND ON THE VERY TOP FLOOR OF PECHÉ MIGNON, THERE WILL BE MESSAGE T'S.
ON THE 2ND FLOOR AND 3RD FLOOR AS WELL

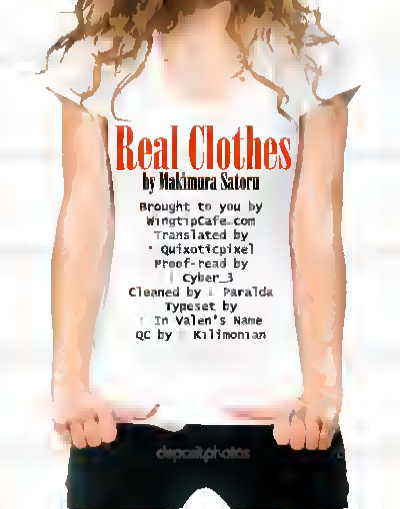
OPEN!
PLEASE SUBMIT 100 MESSAGES THAT BEGIN WITH "I."
I try.
LOOK like this
O-HYA-HYA-HYA!
IT'S HAND-WRITTEN ~~~
DISMISSED!
KONISHI-SAN, A MOMENT?
YES.
I'LL SUBMIT 300 IDEAS RIGHT AWAY!
SMILE
SMILE
I DO WANT TO WORK TOGETHER WITH YOU.


OUR POSITIONS ARE DIFFERENT, SINCE WE'RE SUPERVISOR AND SUBORDINATE...
YEAH.
I WONDER— WHAT THIS WALL IS?
I... PLAN ON WORKING TOGETHER... WITH YOU, HOWEVER,
IT'S WONDERFUL— "TOMORROW."
SMILE
I WANT MY ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THIS DEPARTMENT STORE.
I WANT TO SEE YC SUCCEED, AND THEN I WANT TO CLIMB UP A CINDERELLA STAIRCASE TO THE 3RD AND 4TH FLOOR!
I WANT TO STAY CONNECTED WITH ECHIZENYA FOR ALL OF MY LIFE
SO SHE'S BEING CONSIDERATE OF ME. I'M UNAPPROACHABLE...

YOU SAY SOME REALLY GOOD THINGS.
IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT CLOTHES THAT ARE SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES, WITHOUT AN AGE DISTINCTION, IT'S A T-SHIRT!
THAT'S WHY I WANT THE ENTIRE BUILDING TO BE PROVIDED WITH THE SAME CLOTHES.
BOSS!
PLEASE TAKE THIS TO THE TOP. AN ALL-FLOOR EXHIBITION!
IT'S REALLY GOOD.
NO, IT'S GOOD.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT! WHAT A LACKLUSTER REPLY.
YUP. IT'S GOOD
WHAT'S WRONG?

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS?
HEY.
?!
GOOD BYE. THANKS FOR THE LAST 7 YEARS.
I AM BREAKING UP WITH THE ONE WHO WOULD NOT BE WITH ME ON THE EVENING OF THE STORM

HOW-
HOW STUPID!
EXCUSE ME I DON'T THINK THAT A WOMAN WOULD DUMP HER LOVER OVER SOMETHING LIKE THAT?! THIS IS JUST AN EXCUSE
WHAT KIND OF PERSON ARE YOU
RATHER, HAVE YOU BEEN CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER PROPERLY?
HAVE I BEEN DUMPED?
ME?
ON THE GROUNDS THAT I STAYED THE NIGHT AT THE OFFICE LAST NIGHT?
THIS PERSON HAS THE CHARISMA TO SILENCE A CRYING CHILD IN THIS INDUSTRY, YET COULD IT BE REGARDING OTHER THINGS HE'S ..
SHE'S MY FIANCÉE, SO ISN'T IT AN ESTABLISHED FACT THAT WE CONNECT?
DOOM!
HOPELESS?!
I WOULDN'T KNOW!
Hurts my head.
FORGET YC, WHAT ABOUT MY TOMORROW?
End of Chapter 41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by Makimura Satoru
Brought to you by
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Quixoticpixel
Proof-read by
cyber_3
Cleaned by Paralda
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In Valen's Name
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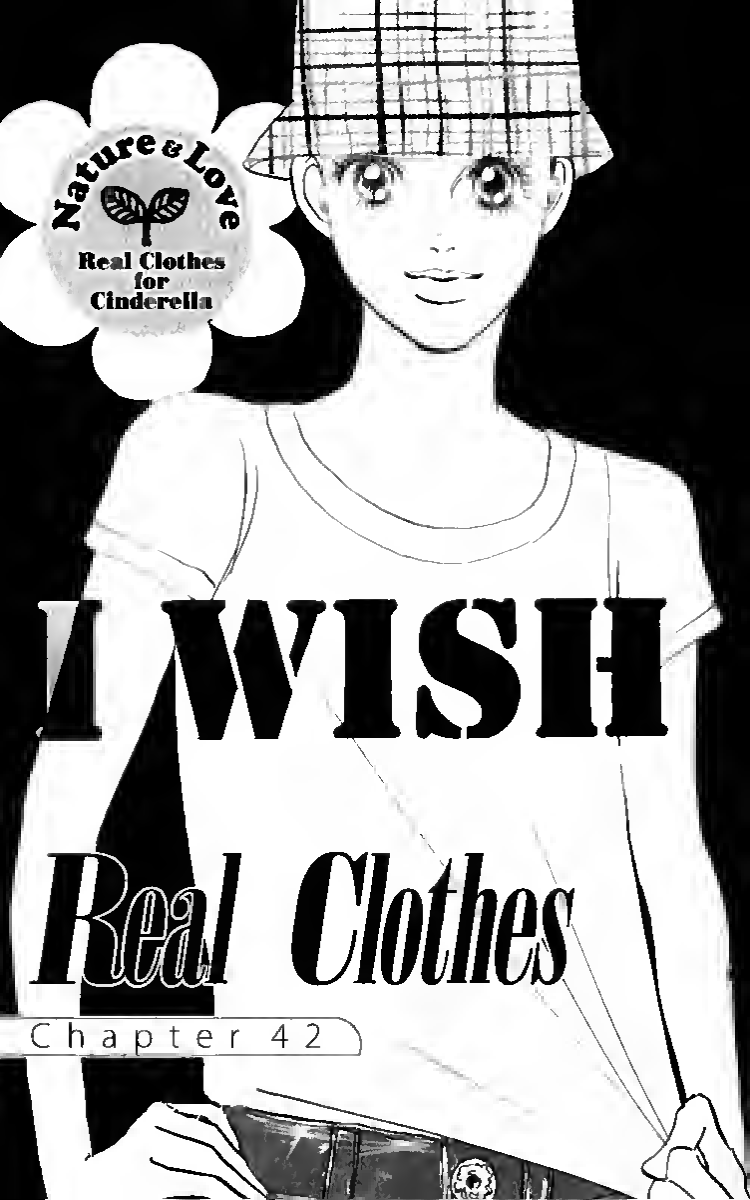
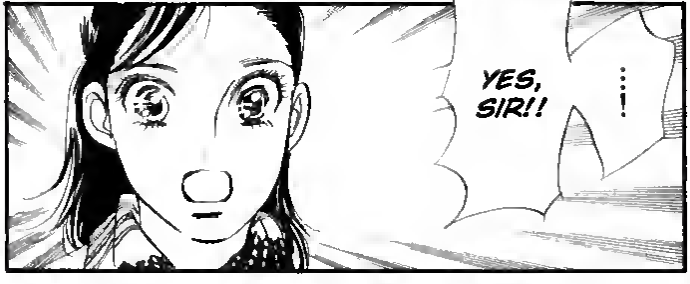

Nature & Love
Real Clothes for Cinderella
I WISH
Real Clothes
Chapter 42

HERE... HAVE THIS TAKEN CARE OF BY THE TIME I GET BACK FROM THE HONG KONG BRANCH.
YES, SIR!
AS SOON AS I COME BACK, WE'LL HAVE AN ANALYSIS MEETING ABOUT THE MARKET CONDITIONS.
YES, SIR!
EH?
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
DON'T YOU THINK... HE HAS A BROKEN HEART AND IS PUSHING HIMSELF?
THAT...
RAWR
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

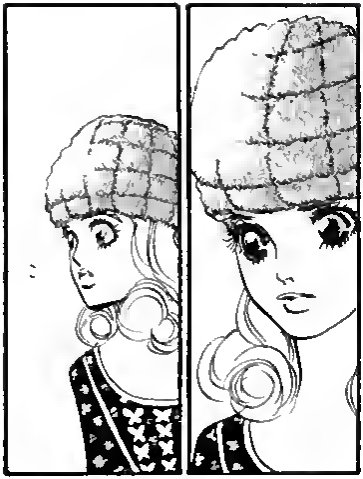
OR TRY GRILLING HER FOR THE DETAILS—
DO WE CONSOLE HIM?
THAT WOULD MAKE US SUCH——
WHAT——? WHAT ARE WE, CHILDREN——?
AMANO—
BE CHILDREN.
WE MAY
BUT THEN,
I'M HERE!!

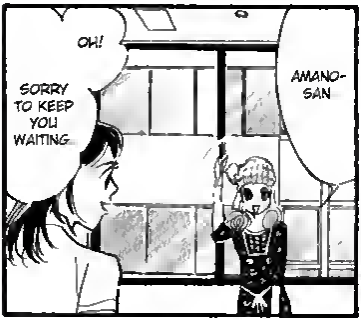
CAN YOU NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH JINBO-BUCHOU?
ABOUT THE WHOLE BUILDING T-SHIRT EXHIBITION.

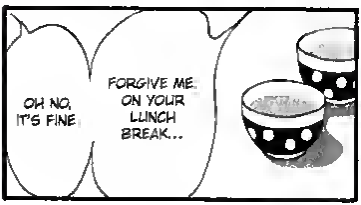

YES, SIR!!
!

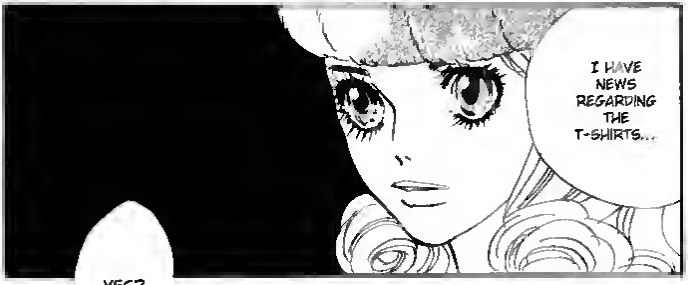
I'LL DO MY BEST. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. PLEASE CHEER UP, BOSS!
SHUT IT.
YOU'LL HAVE THE TEN MINUTES BEFORE IT.
TONIGHT AT 8:00, THERE'S A PARTY FOR D'AURA AT THE RESIDENCE OF BARON KOISHIKAWA.

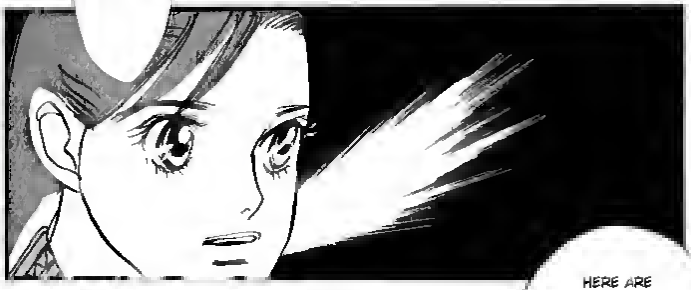
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
HAVE A SAFE TRIP!
INTERVIEW

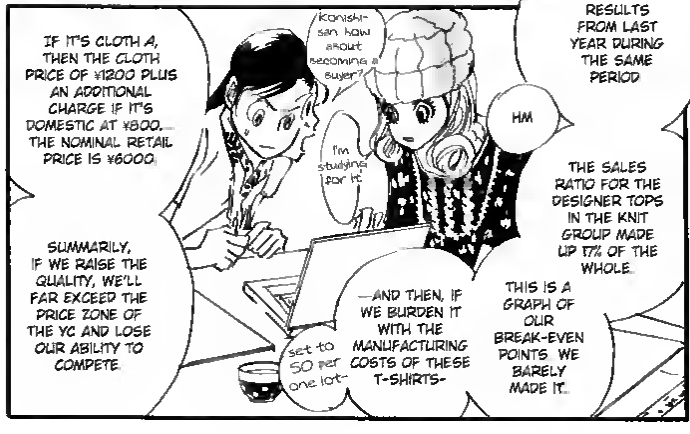


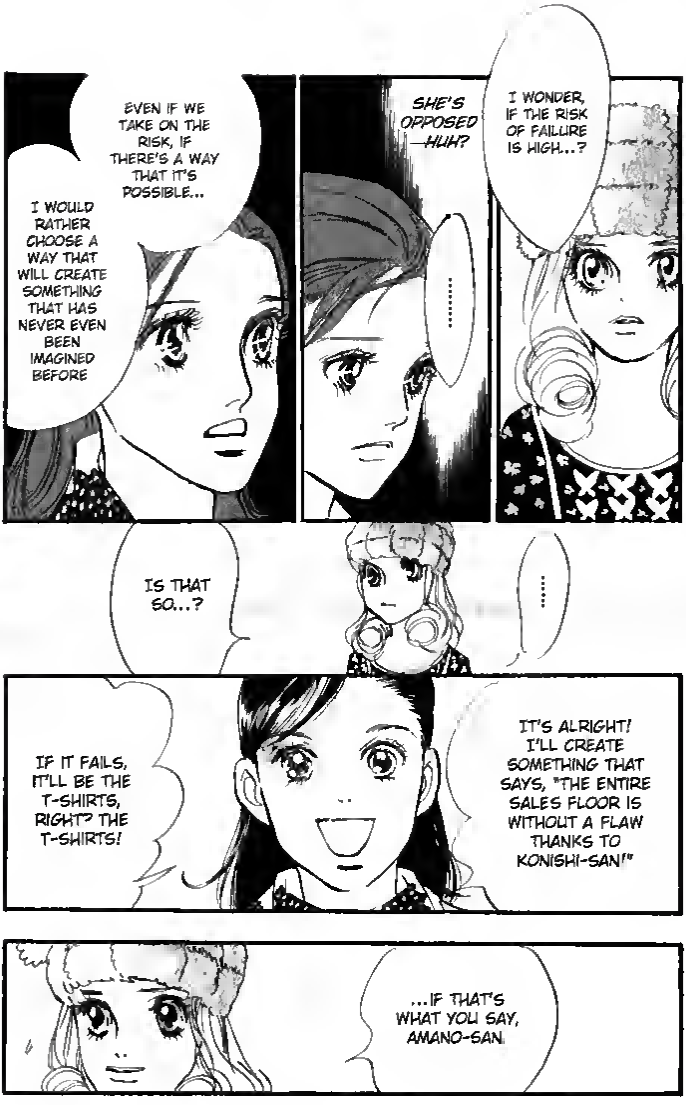

OH!
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
AMANO-SAN


OH NO, IT'S FINE.
FORGIVE ME ON YOUR LUNCH BREAK...


I HAVE NEWS REGARDING THE T-SHIRTS...

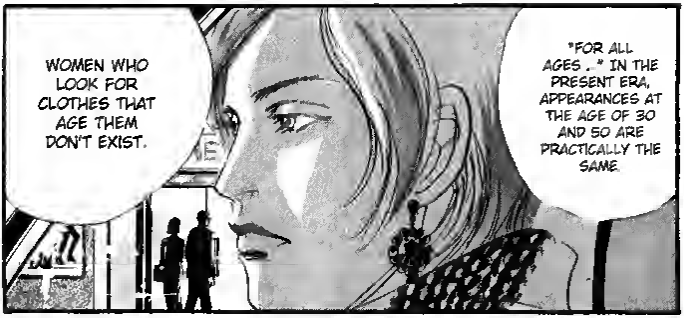

YES?


HERE ARE THE YC SALES RESULTS FROM LAST YEAR DURING THE SAME PERIOD
HM
THE SALES RATIO FOR THE DESIGNER TOPS IN THE KNIT GROUP MADE UP 17% OF THE WHOLE.
THIS IS A GRAPH OF OUR BREAK-EVEN POINTS. WE BARELY MADE IT.
—AND THEN, IF WE BURDEN IT WITH THE MANUFACTURING COSTS OF THESE T-SHIRTS-
set to 50 per one lot-
SUMMARILY, IF WE RAISE THE QUALITY, WE'LL FAR EXCEED THE PRICE ZONE OF THE YC AND LOSE OUR ABILITY TO COMPETE.
IF IT'S CLOTH A, THEN THE CLOTH PRICE OF ¥1200 PLUS AN ADDITIONAL CHARGE IF IT'S DOMESTIC AT ¥800... THE NOMINAL RETAIL PRICE IS ¥6000.
Konishi-san how about becoming a buyer?
I'm studying for it.


I WONDER, IF THE RISK OF FAILURE IS HIGH...?
SHE'S OPPOSED —HUH?
.....
EVEN IF WE TAKE ON THE RISK, IF THERE'S A WAY THAT IT'S POSSIBLE...
I WOULD RATHER CHOOSE A WAY THAT WILL CREATE SOMETHING THAT HAS NEVER EVEN BEEN IMAGINED BEFORE
.....
IS THAT SO...?
IT'S ALRIGHT! I'LL CREATE SOMETHING THAT SAYS, "THE ENTIRE SALES FLOOR IS WITHOUT A FLAW THANKS TO KONISHI-SAN!"
IF IT FAILS, IT'LL BE THE T-SHIRTS, RIGHT? THE T-SHIRTS!
...IF THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY, AMANO-SAN.

IT'S OK, RIGHT? BEING THIS KIND OF SUPERVISOR.
ALTHOUGH THE TRUTH IS, IT'D BE MORE FUN IF WE WORKED ALL TOGETHER AND THEN TOOK THE FALL TOGETHER.
IF IT FAILS, IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY.
POUND!
I GUESS...

FLASH!
VROOOM
EXCUSE ME.
I WANT TO MAKE T-SHIRTS APPROPRIATE FOR ALL AGES AND THEN SELL THEM THROUGHOUT THE BUILDING
WITH AROUND 10 DIFFERENT MESSAGE PATTERNS
SQUEAL!
G-66

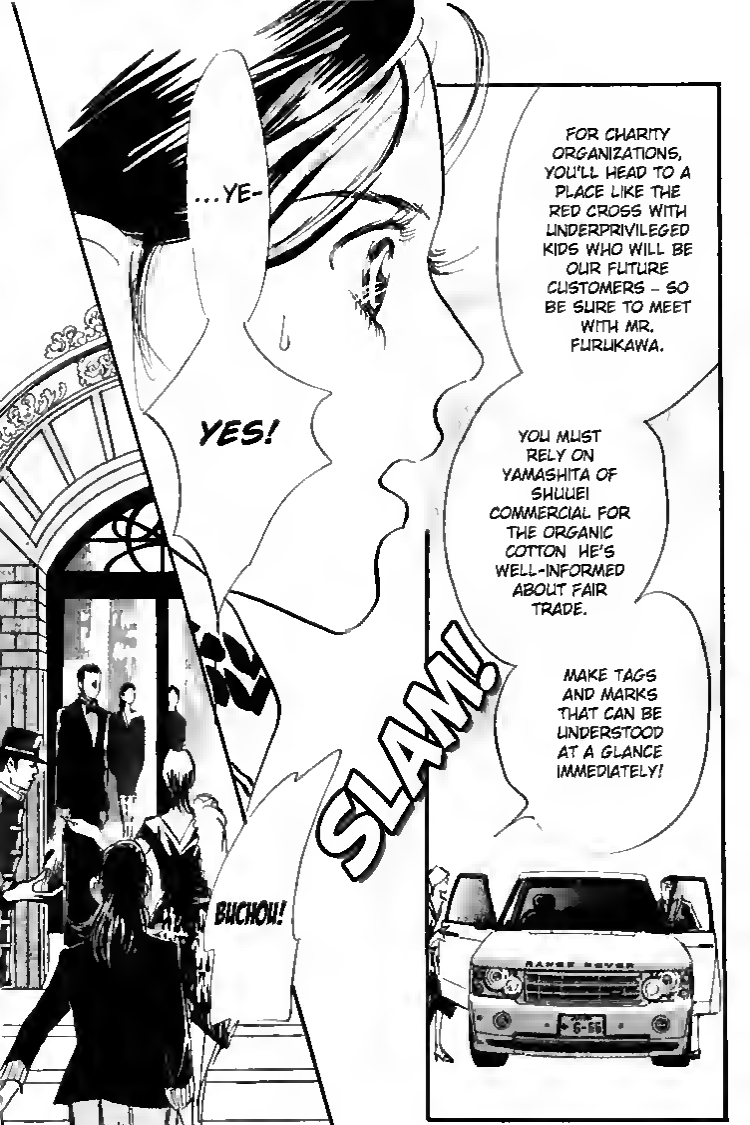

WOMEN WHO LOOK FOR CLOTHES THAT AGE THEM DON'T EXIST.
"FOR ALL AGES." IN THE PRESENT ERA, APPEARANCES AT THE AGE OF 30 AND 50 ARE PRACTICALLY THE SAME.

AND THE YOUNG WILL NOT BUY EXPENSIVE ITEMS.
FLUTTER
——BE THAT AS IT MAY, THE BETTER LINE OR PRESTIGE LINE CUSTOMERS WILL NOT WEAR POOR QUALITY.

I'LL ATTACH AN ADDITIONAL CHARGE.
SET IT AT ¥6000.
WHAT WILL YOU DO ABOUT THE PRICE?
THAT'S HIGH.

AH HA HA HA
IT'LL COME WITH A DONATION FOR ECO-FRIENDLY RAW MATERIALS.
WHETHER IT'S PEOPLE WITH BIG WALLETS OR SMALL ONES,
OR PEOPLE IN TUNE WITH THE TRENDS, OR PEOPLE WHO STAY TRUE TO THEIR OWN STYLE,
THEY ALL KEEP IN MIND A CONCERN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT OR THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN THEY ARE THINKING THEY WANT TO DO SOMETHING IN SOME WAY.
CLOUDBURSTS ARE SCARY, AND LOW PRESSURE SYSTEMS MAKE THEM FEEL SICK.
PFT-
PFT?!

CHUCKLE!
CHUCKLE!
SO WE'LL WEAR MATCHING T-SHIRTS AND COME TOGETHER WHEN WE DIE!
To die, you say.
OPEN!!
THE HOOK IS IN THE MESSAGE AND DESIGN, HM? IF IT'S EXCEPTIONALLY COOL, ECOLOGICALLY-FRIENDLY, AND INCLUDES A CONTRIBUTION,
THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WILL THINK, "WELL THEN, I'LL BUY IT."


...YE-
YES!
FOR CHARITY ORGANIZATIONS, YOU'LL HEAD TO A PLACE LIKE THE RED CROSS WITH UNDERPRIVILEGED KIDS WHO WILL BE OUR FUTURE CUSTOMERS – SO BE SURE TO MEET WITH MR. FURUKAWA.
YOU MUST RELY ON YAMASHITA OF SHUUE! COMMERCIAL FOR THE ORGANIC COTTON HE'S WELL-INFORMED ABOUT FAIR TRADE.
MAKE TAGS AND MARKS THAT CAN BE UNDERSTOOD AT A GLANCE IMMEDIATELY!
SLAM!
BUCHOU!

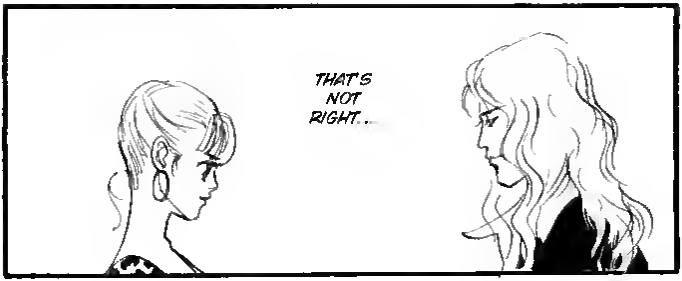
Real Clothes 6

(*T/N: Since in the original Japanese language version of the manga the Buchous words "I survive" were already in English, we can assume Jinbo-Buchou is saying this in English.)

I
SURVIVE.
Someday when I'm an adult I want to try and say something like that.
Oooh~! She's so cool~

WOAH—OH!
HACHIYA-SAN!!
BISTROT RIEM'S
STAND AIR TREES
A DATE?!

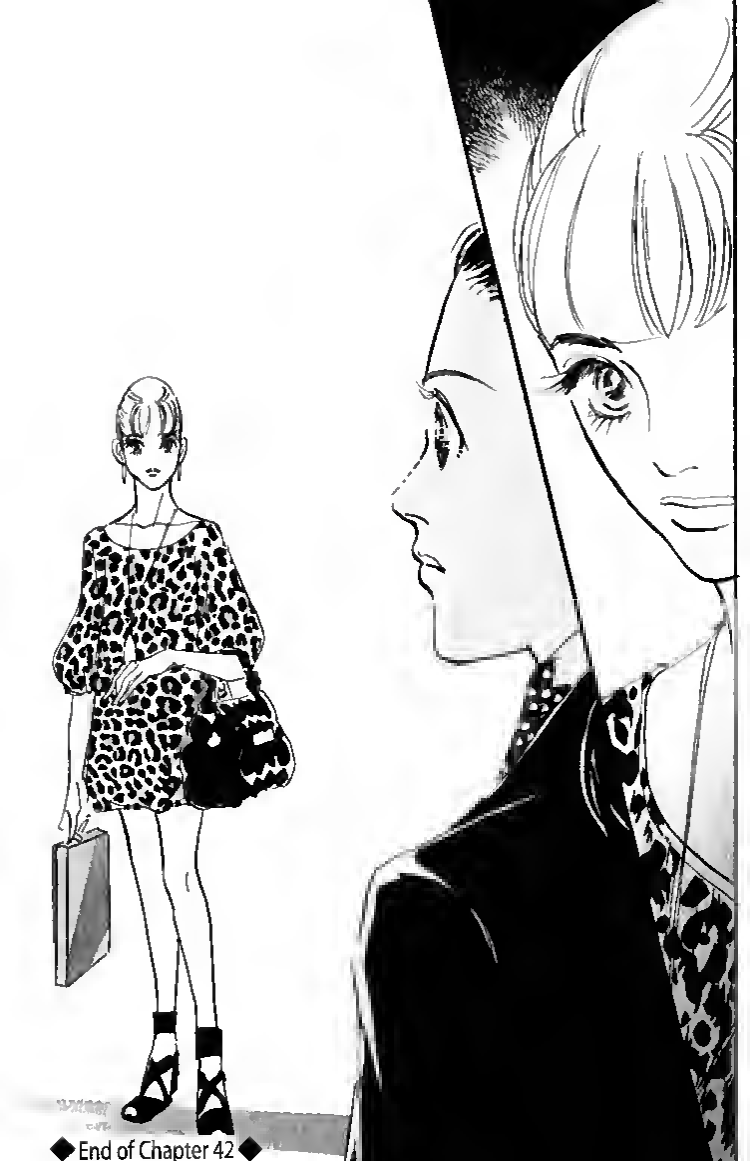
KONISHI-SAN!!
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?! ARE THOSE TWO SEEING EACH OTHER?!
WHA—?!


THAT'S NOT RIGHT...

WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

HEADHUNTING
SCHOOLMATES
EXCHANGING INFORMATION
SPY

AN
INTERVIEW.



◆End of Chapter 42◆

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By Takamura Saburo

Translated by : quixoticpixel
Proof-read by : Cyber_3
Cleaned by : Paralda
Typeset by : In Valen's Name
QC by : Maris

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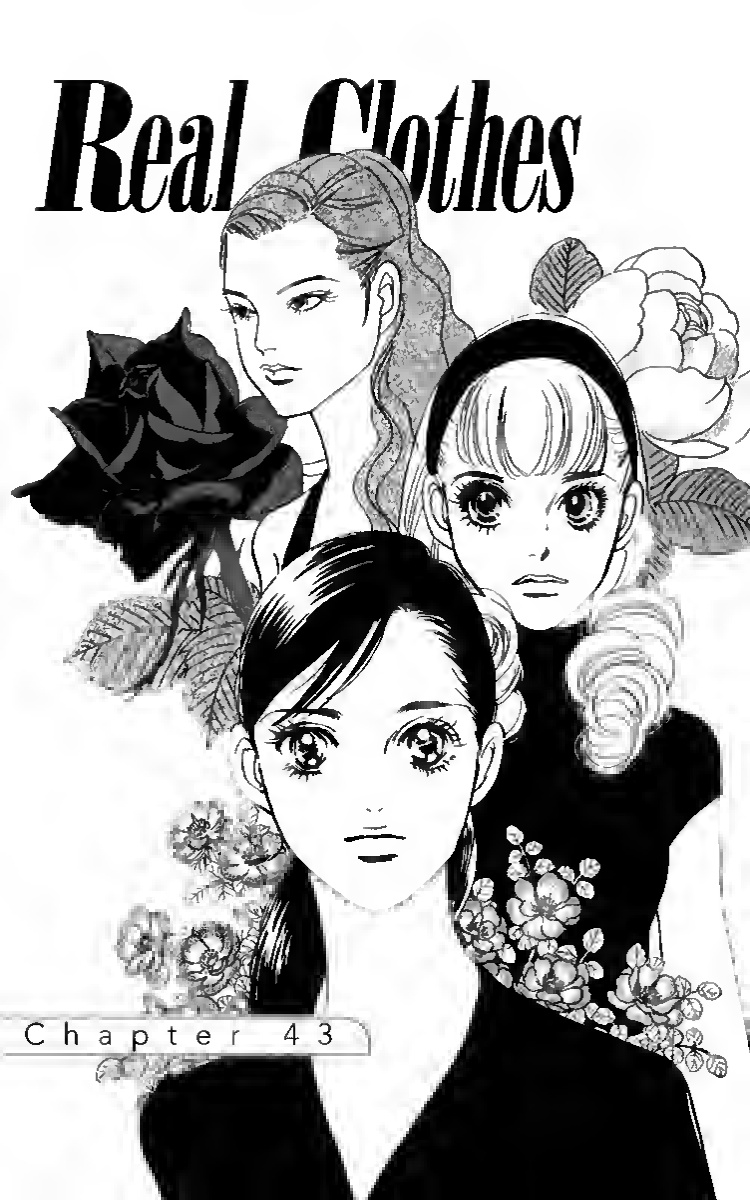
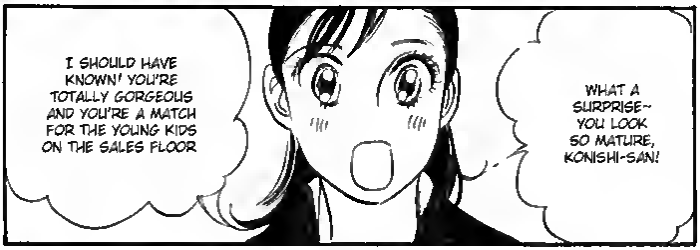
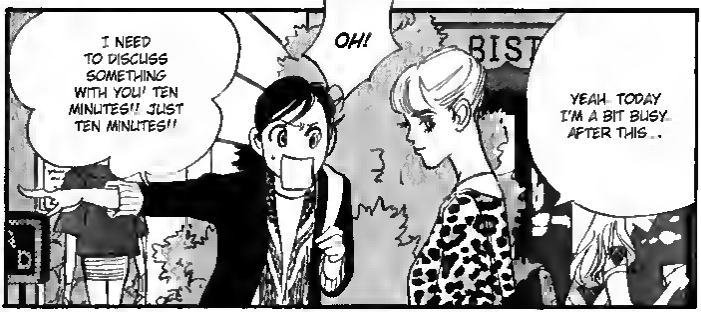
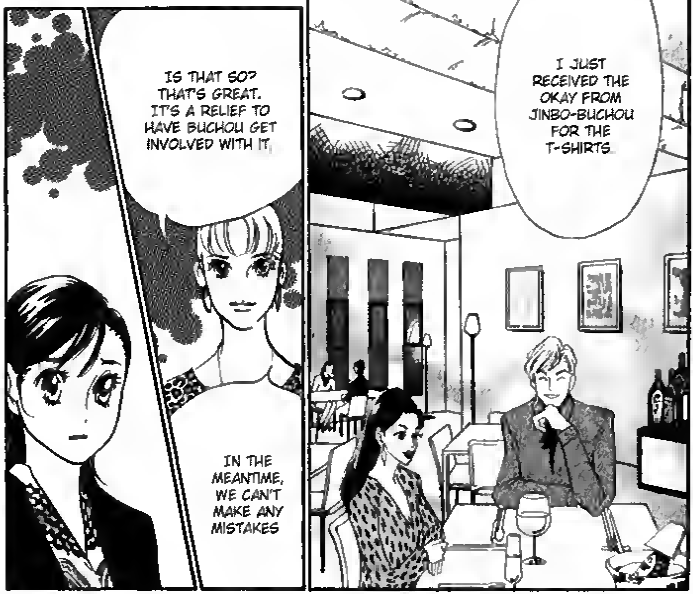


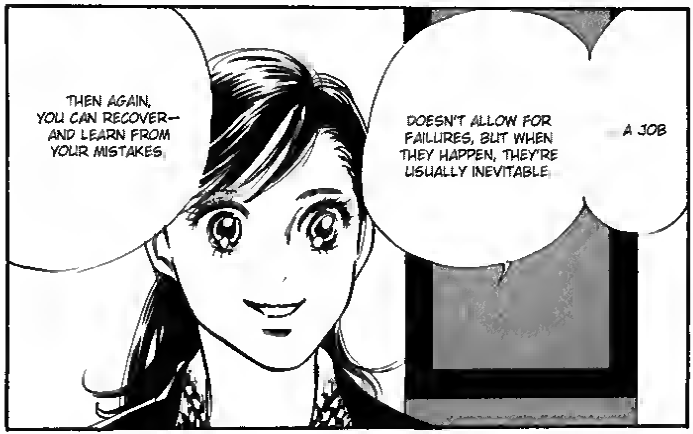
Chapter 43

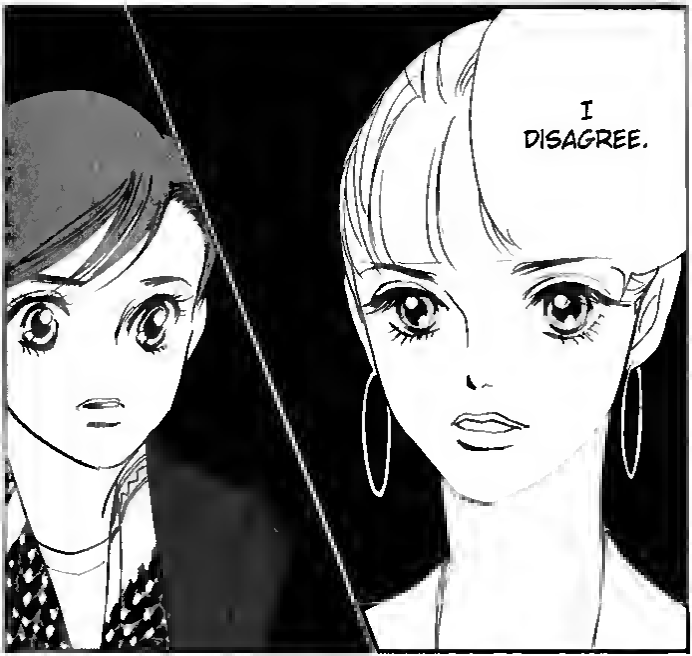
GRIP
OPEL


I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN! YOU'RE TOTALLY GORGEOUS AND YOU'RE A MATCH FOR THE YOUNG KIDS ON THE SALES FLOOR
WHAT A SURPRISE~ YOU LOOK SO MATURE, KONISHI-SAN!

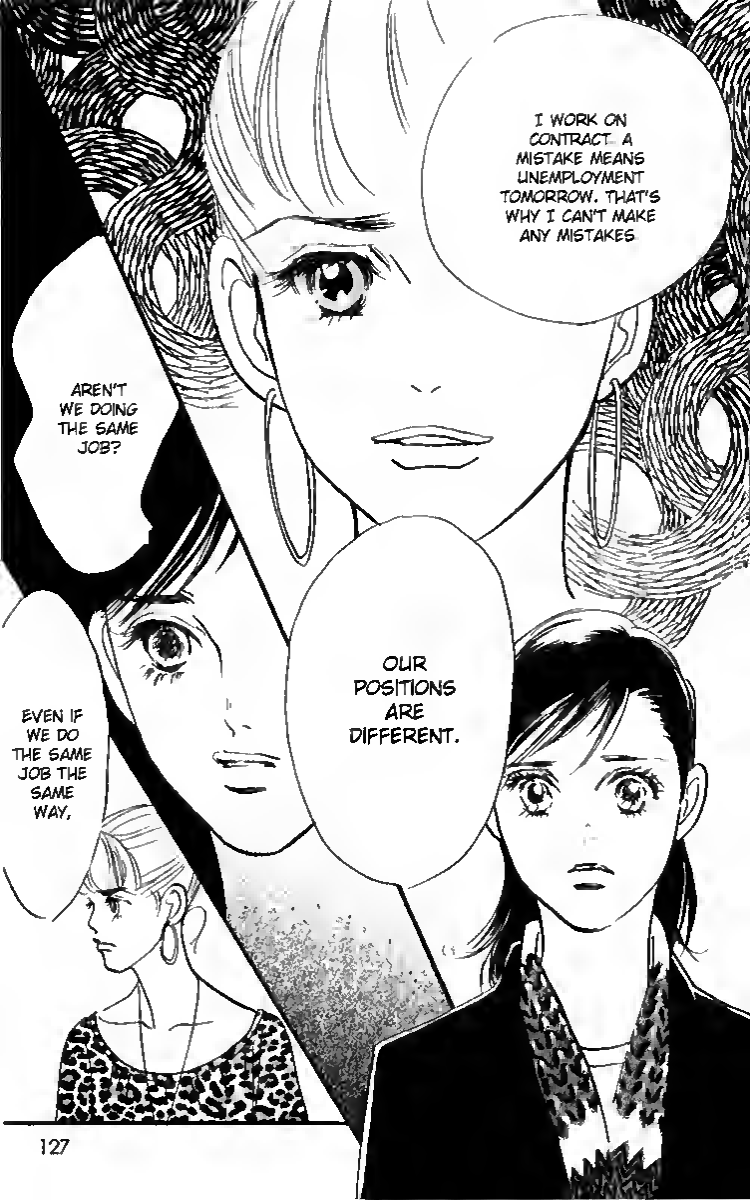

I NEED TO DISCUSS SOMETHING WITH YOU! TEN MINUTES!! JUST TEN MINUTES!!
OH!
YEAH. TODAY I'M A BIT BUSY AFTER THIS..


I JUST RECEIVED THE OKAY FROM JINBO-BUCHOU FOR THE T-SHIRTS.
IS THAT SO? THAT'S GREAT. IT'S A RELIEF TO HAVE BUCHOU GET INVOLVED WITH IT.
IN THE MEANTIME, WE CAN'T MAKE ANY MISTAKES


A JOB DOESN'T ALLOW FOR FAILURES, BUT WHEN THEY HAPPEN, THEY'RE USUALLY INEVITABLE.
THEN AGAIN, YOU CAN RECOVER— AND LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKES.


I DISAGREE.

THAT IS BECAUSE YOU ARE A PERMANENT EMPLOYEE.
IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE, THE TEAM WILL BACK YOU UP.
YOU CAN GET ANOTHER CHANCE. YOU WILL BE TRAINED.

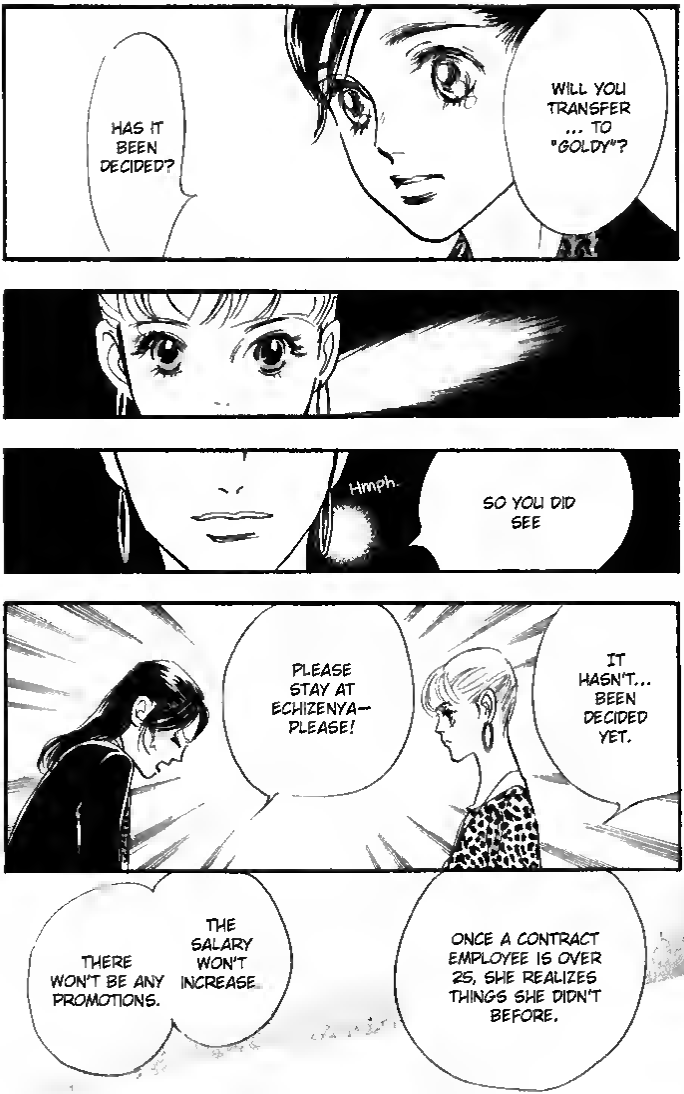

I WORK ON CONTRACT. A MISTAKE MEANS UNEMPLOYMENT TOMORROW. THAT'S WHY I CAN'T MAKE ANY MISTAKES
AREN'T WE DOING THE SAME JOB?
OUR POSITIONS ARE DIFFERENT.
EVEN IF WE DO THE SAME JOB THE SAME WAY,

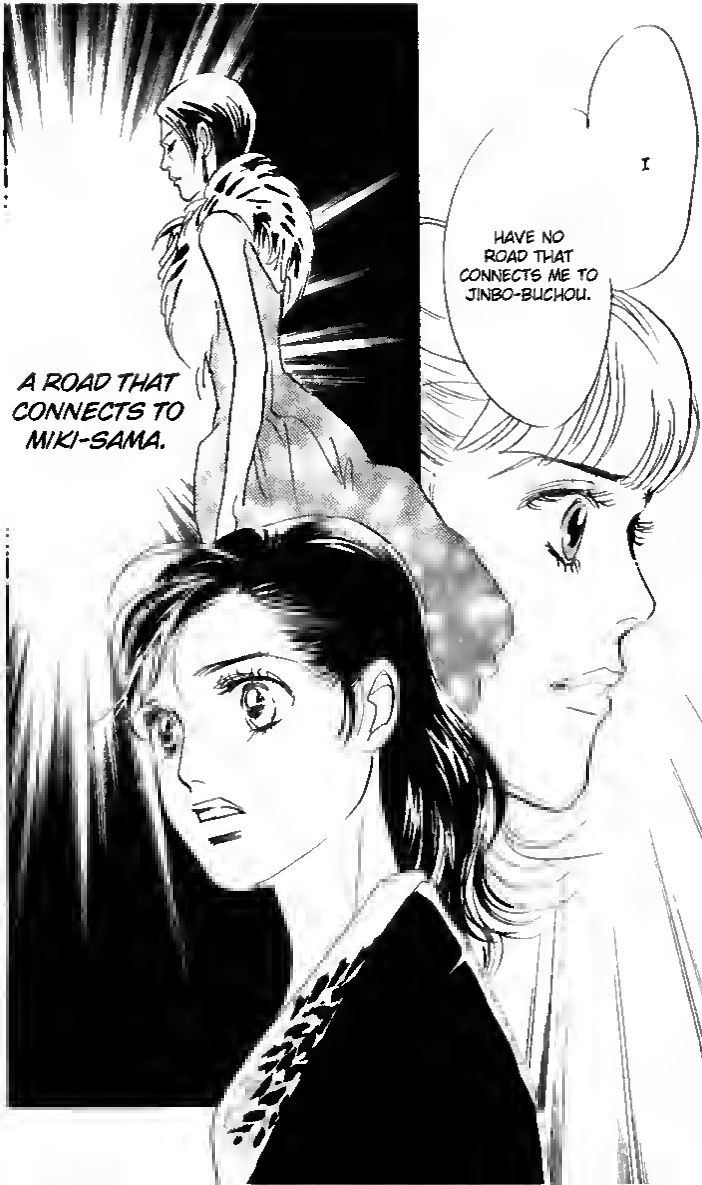
YOUR TALENT HAS DAZZLED THE CHARISMATIC BUYER AND YOU'RE LOVED BY ALL THE DESIGNERS.
WITH A CAREER THAT'S BEING REFERRED TO AS THE FOUNDATION FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE 3RD FLOOR DEPARTMENT
ARE THE HOPE OF THE INNER CIRCLE, THE 5TH FLOOR DEPARTMENT'S DIRECTOR'S PRODIGY,
YOU, AMANO-SAN,
YOU'RE SO ELITE, YOU CAN MEET DIRECTLY WITH JINBO-BUCHOU.
SHOCK!
GAPE
GAPE
GAPE
GAPE
YOU'RE...
WRONG!

I DON'T KNOW MY RIGHT FROM MY LEFT OR UP FROM DOWN.
AT ANY TIME, OVER ANYTHING,
I RELIED ON A SENPAI, SAYING THAT I'D BE FINE TO WORK ANYWHERE. I ENDED UP IN THIS DEPARTMENT AT RANDOM
I WAS ALWAYS FLAILING AROUND, QUICK TO MAKE MISSTEPS
I DRAGGED OTHERS DOWN AND WAS USELESS AT EVERYTHING
I WAS HANDED SCISSORS AND TOLD TO SHRED THE CLOTHES THAT I HAD FAILED TO SELL...!
I FREAKING SUCK!
JUST HOW AM I ELITE?!

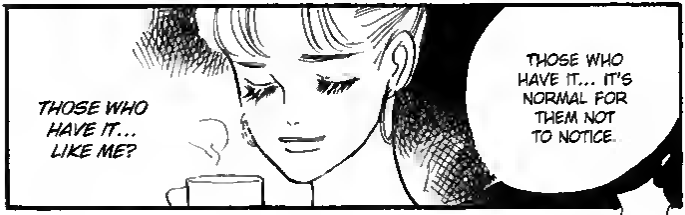
I NEED TO THINK ABOUT KONISHI-SAN RATHER THAN MYSELF.

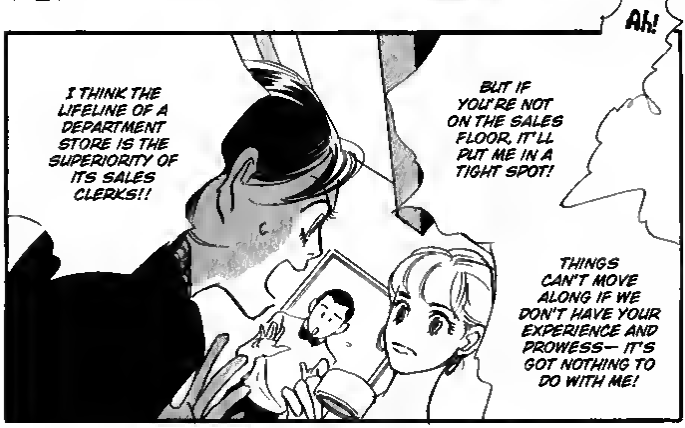
IMAGINE KONISHI-SAN'S POSITION.

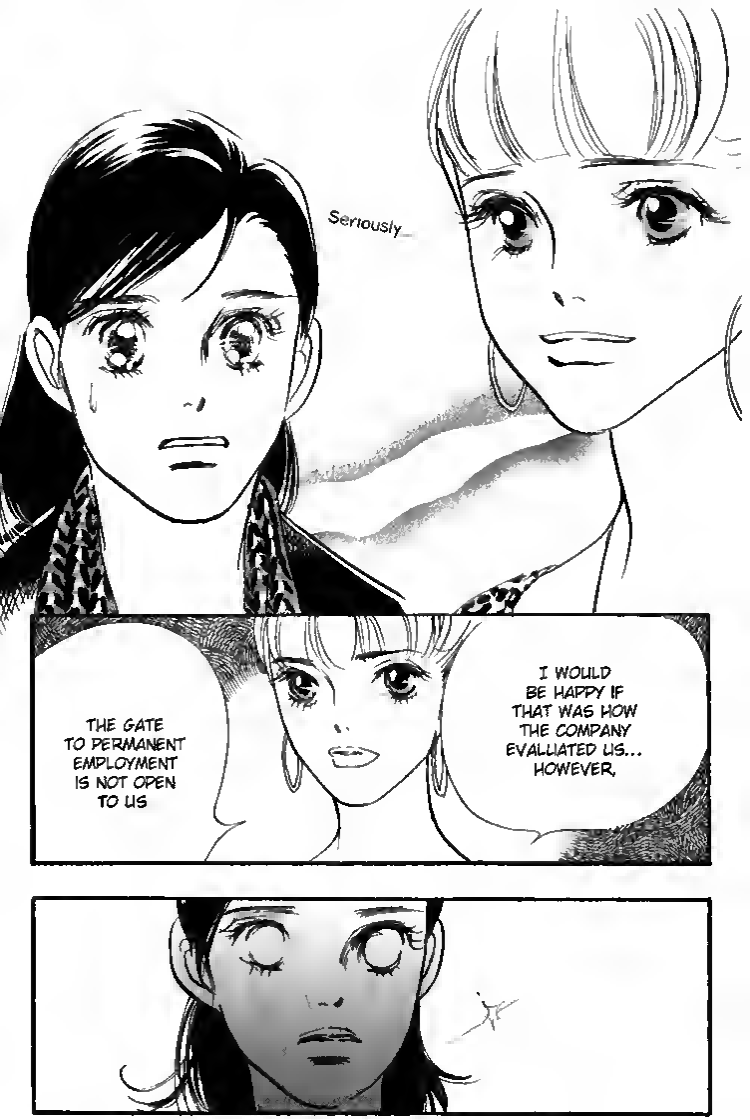

WILL YOU TRANSFER ... TO "GOLDY"?
HAS IT BEEN DECIDED?
Hmph.
SO YOU DID SEE
IT HASN'T... BEEN DECIDED YET.
PLEASE STAY AT ECHIZENYA— PLEASE!
THERE WON'T BE ANY PROMOTIONS.
THE SALARY WON'T INCREASE.
ONCE A CONTRACT EMPLOYEE IS OVER 25, SHE REALIZES THINGS SHE DIDN'T BEFORE.


I
HAVE NO ROAD THAT CONNECTS ME TO JINBO-BUCHOU.
A ROAD THAT CONNECTS TO MIKI-SAMA.

THERE IS NO—
I DIDN'T REALIZE...
declares...
ROAD...


THOSE WHO HAVE IT... IT'S NORMAL FOR THEM NOT TO NOTICE.
THOSE WHO HAVE IT... LIKE ME?

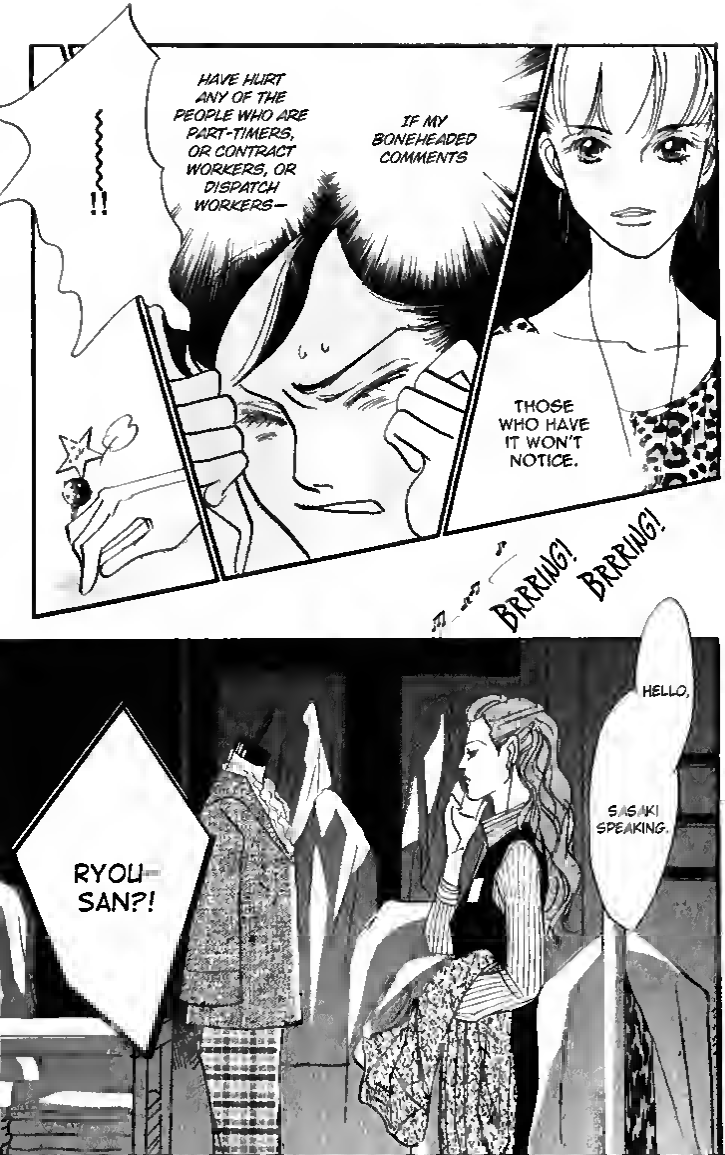

Ah!
BUT IF YOU'RE NOT ON THE SALES FLOOR, IT'LL PUT ME IN A TIGHT SPOT!
I THINK THE LIFELINE OF A DEPARTMENT STORE IS THE SUPERIORITY OF ITS SALES CLERKS!!
THINGS CAN'T MOVE ALONG IF WE DON'T HAVE YOUR EXPERIENCE AND PROWESS— IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!

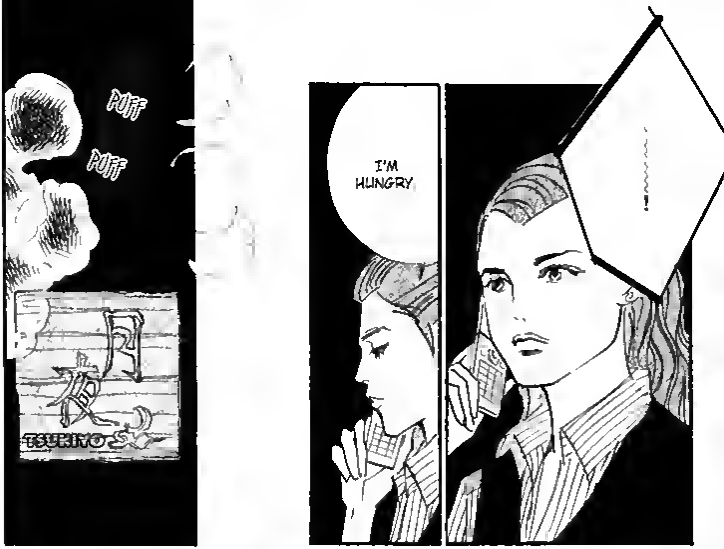

Seriously...
I WOULD BE HAPPY IF THAT WAS HOW THE COMPANY EVALUATED US... HOWEVER,
THE GATE TO PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT IS NOT OPEN TO US

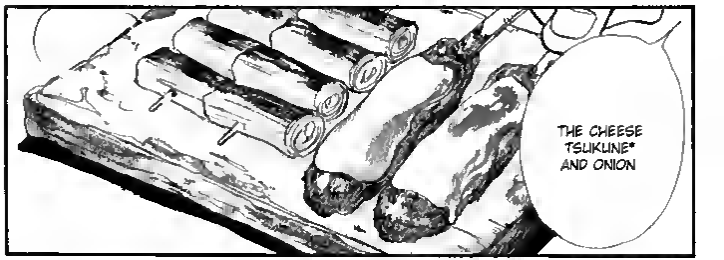
THERE'S NO—
ROAD...
Ladies 3
SEE YA.
HEY, TAKE THE CATERING.
OKAY~.
SU I——DE!

(*T/N A play on a popular Korean drama, "Fuyu [₩inter] Sonata.")

DOES "FUYU SONATE!"* COUNT?
MORI—
PHONE!
AH~ SOMEONE SAVE ME! SOMEONE WHO KNOWS KOREAN~!!
THE BUYERS' ROOM...
THE PEOPLE HERE ARE THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN BLESSED BY BEING ABLE TO WORK HERE WITHOUT RESTRAINT, DYED-IN-THE-WOOL, PERMANENT EMPLOYEES.
I RECOGNIZE THAT...


!!
HAVE HURT ANY OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE PART-TIMERS, OR CONTRACT WORKERS, OR DISPATCH WORKERS—
IF MY BONEHEADED COMMENTS
THOSE WHO HAVE IT WON'T NOTICE.
BRRRING! BRRRING!
HELLO,
SASAKI SPEAKING.
RYOU-SAN?!

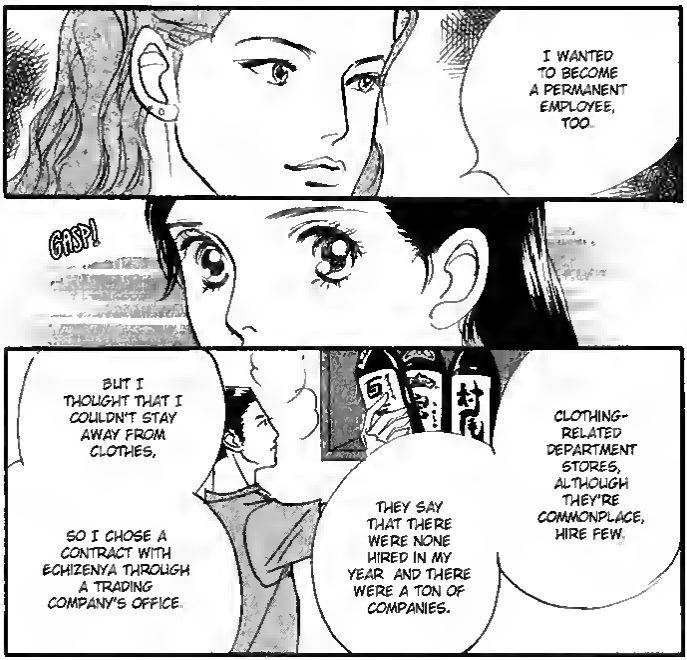




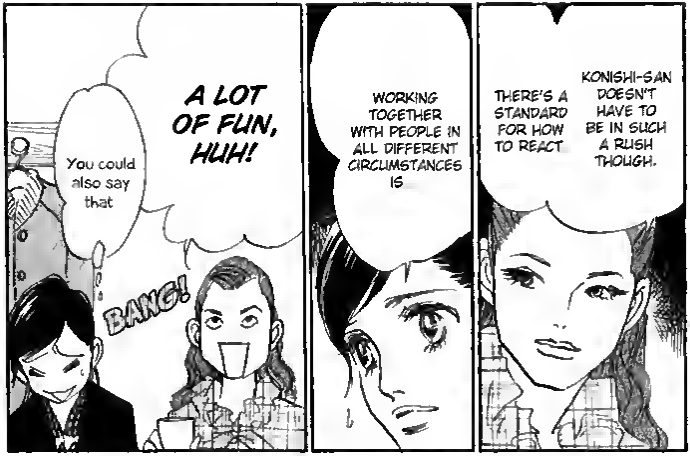
(*T/N Tsukune s a type of meatloaf made from chicken)

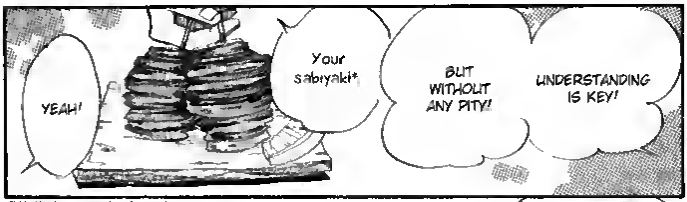
(*T/N In investment terms, a "bubble burst" [also known as a "market crash"] occurs when an asset [such as a stock or commodity] suddenly drops in value resulting in a significant loss of money for any investors. Though not everybody invests, the uncertainty following a bubble burst can lead to economic recessions and depressions. The Japanese economy experienced a bubble burst in the early 1990s that led to an economic recession.)

EVEN THOUGH ONLY THE METHOD OF OUR PAYMENT IS DIFFERENT,
SOME REALLY TRICKY PROBLEMS ALSO GREW IN NUMBER
AFTER THE BUBBLE BURST*, EVEN THOUGH WE WERE ALL SALES CLERKS DOING THE SAME JOB,
OUR REGARD, OUR TREATMENT, AND OUR EMPLOYMENT SITUATIONS ALL BECAME DIFFERENT.

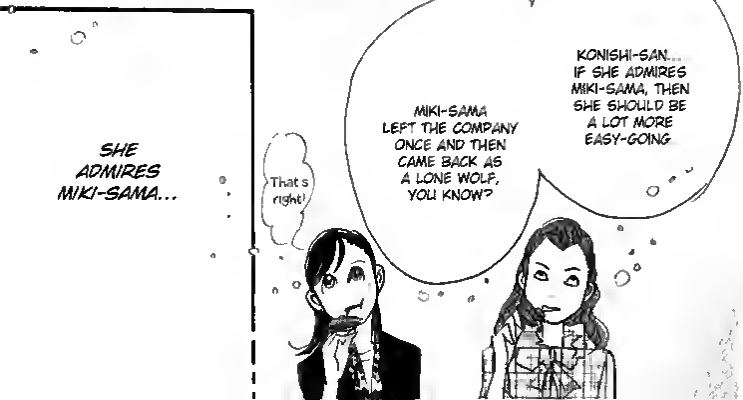

I WANTED TO BECOME A PERMANENT EMPLOYEE, TOO.
GASP!
BUT I THOUGHT THAT I COULDN'T STAY AWAY FROM CLOTHES,
SO I CHOSE A CONTRACT WITH ECHIZENYA THROUGH A TRADING COMPANY'S OFFICE.
THEY SAY THAT THERE WERE NONE HIRED IN MY YEAR AND THERE WERE A TON OF COMPANIES.
CLOTHING-RELATED DEPARTMENT STORES, ALTHOUGH THEY'RE COMMONPLACE, HIRE FEW.

ON THE FLIP SIDE,
IF I EVER THINK ABOUT MOVING, I CAN DO SO RIGHT AWAY WITH THIS JOB.
ALSO, THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES TO GO OVERSEAS FOR TRAINING.
IT'S BECAUSE I HAVE A CONTRACT THAT I ALSO HAVE FREEDOM AND POSSIBILITIES— AS SUCH
IT'S NOT GUARANTEED
I'M NOT ABLE TO SLEEP WHEN IT COMES TIME FOR CONTRACT RENEWALS
THE BONUS IS TINY THERE'S NO SAVINGS FOR RETIREMENT.
WHEN YOU COMPARE IT WITH A PERMANENT EMPLOYEE'S SITUATION, THERE ARE A LOT OF SHORTCOMINGS LIKE THAT


A LOT OF FUN, HUH!
You could also say that
BANG!
WORKING TOGETHER WITH PEOPLE IN ALL DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES IS
THERE'S A STANDARD FOR HOW TO REACT
KONISHI-SAN DOESN'T HAVE TO BE IN SUCH A RUSH THOUGH.



(T/N Chicken roasted with wasabi)


SHE ADMIRES MIKI-SAMA...
That's right!
MIKI-SAMA LEFT THE COMPANY ONCE AND THEN CAME BACK AS A LONE WOLF, YOU KNOW?
KONISHI-SAN... IF SHE ADMIRES MIKI-SAMA, THEN SHE SHOULD BE A LOT MORE EASY-GOING

KLING-
A-LING-
DING
I'M GOING TO THE BACK— I'LL BE BACK IN FIVE MINUTES.
SURE!
I WONDER WHAT'S HAPPENED WITH KONISHI-SAN'S EMPLOYMENT.
IF IT'S ALREADY A DONE DEAL, THEN THAT'D BE LIKE STARTING A NEW LIFE FOR HER.
BUT THEN— IF KONISHI-SAN BECAME A BUYER FOR "GOLDY," I'D TOTALLY HATE THAT— RATHER, IT'D BE TERRIFYING.
'MORNING! IT'S REALLY AUTUMN NOW.
IT IS, HUH~

AT THIS TIME, AS FOR EMPLOYMENT AS A PERMANENT EMPLOYEE— I'M SORRY TO SAY, WE'RE PASSING YOU OVER...
GOOD MORNING. IT'S HACHIYA. ARE YOU AVAILABLE RIGHT NOW? THANKS FOR COMING OUT YESTERDAY.
I JUST HAD A CONSULTATION WITH THE COMPANY PRESIDENT.

End of Chapter 43

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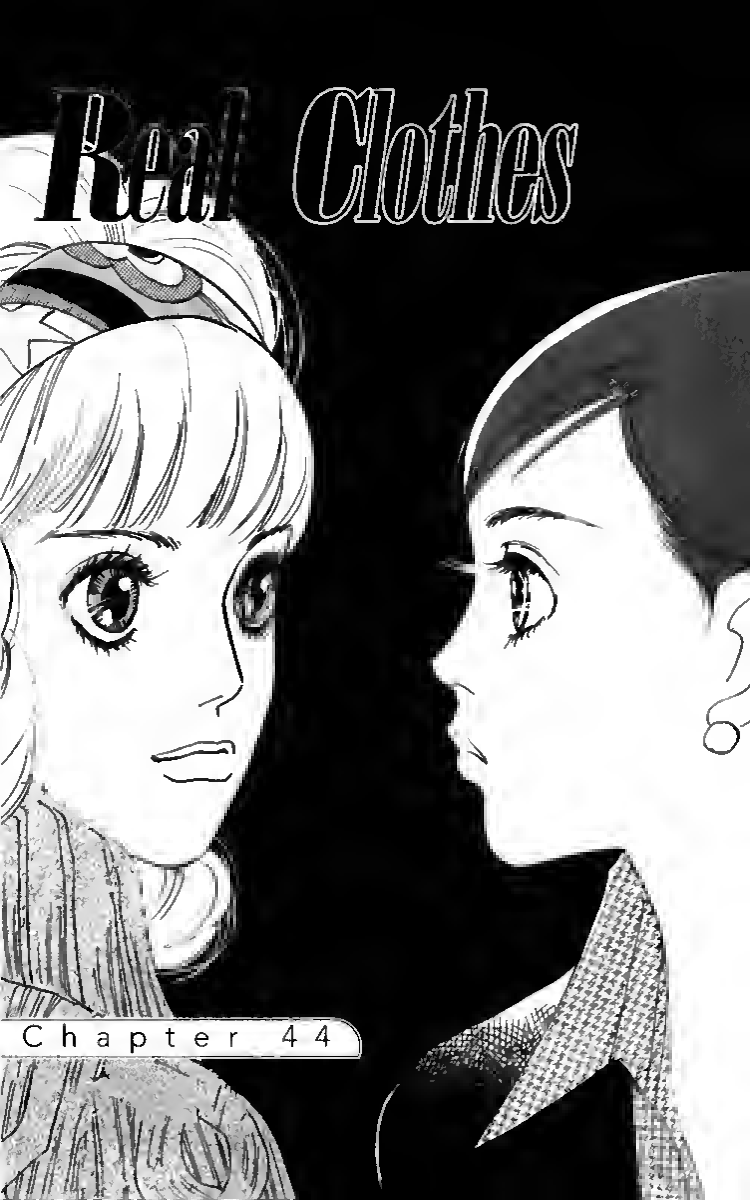
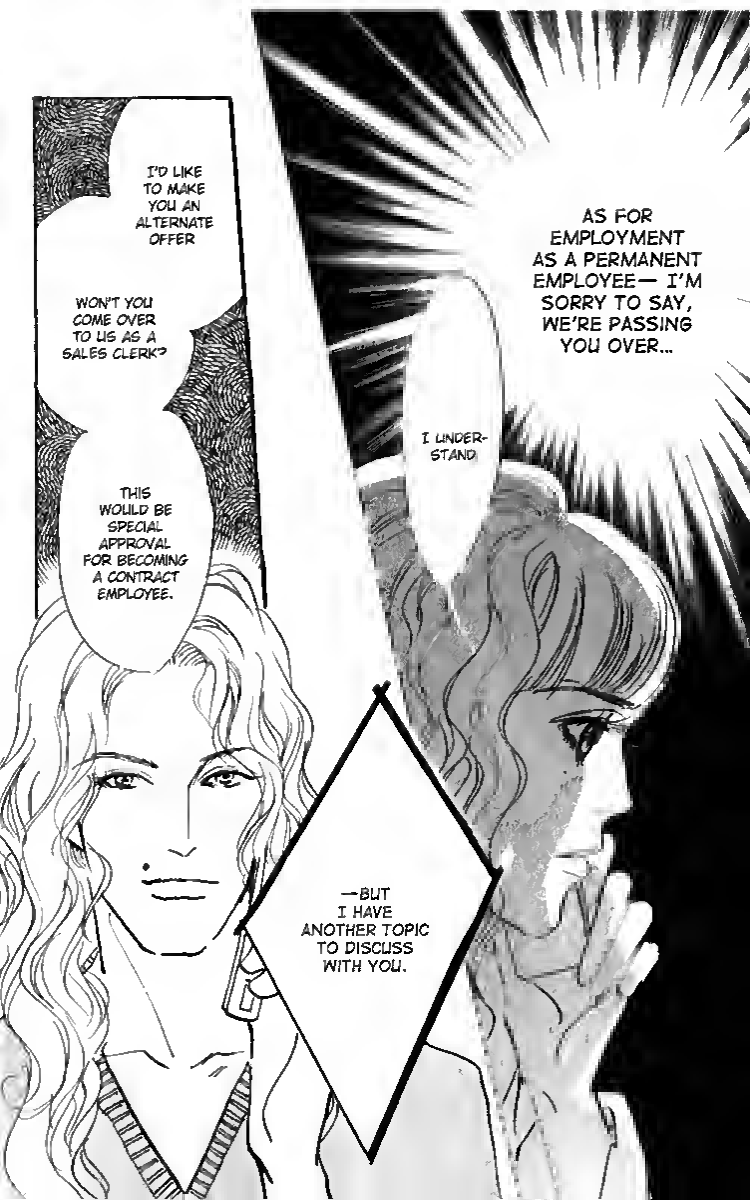
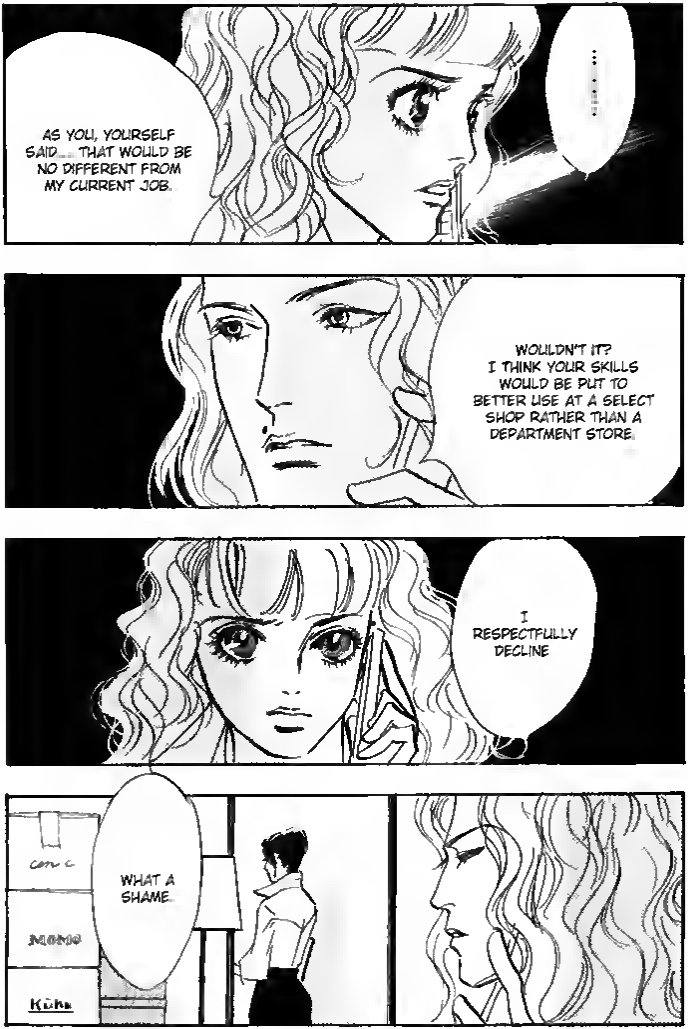
Typeset by : In Valen's Name
QC by : Maris

Real Clothes

by Nakimura Satoru

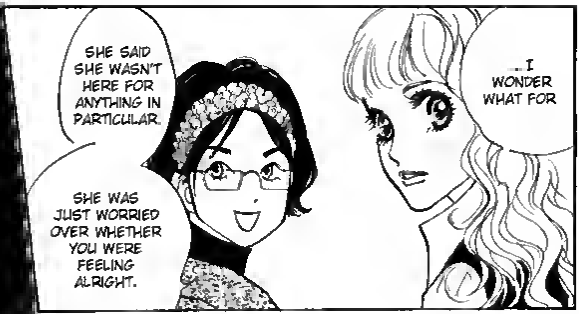

Real Clothes
Chapter 44

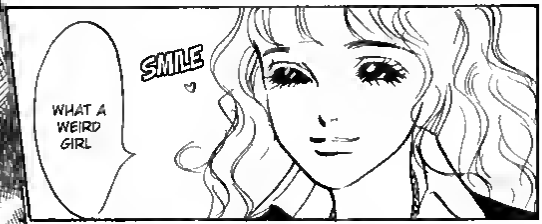

I'D LIKE TO MAKE YOU AN ALTERNATE OFFER
WON'T YOU COME OVER TO US AS A SALES CLERK?
THIS WOULD BE SPECIAL APPROVAL FOR BECOMING A CONTRACT EMPLOYEE.
AS FOR EMPLOYMENT AS A PERMANENT EMPLOYEE— I'M SORRY TO SAY, WE'RE PASSING YOU OVER...
I UNDER-STAND
—BUT I HAVE ANOTHER TOPIC TO DISCUSS WITH YOU.

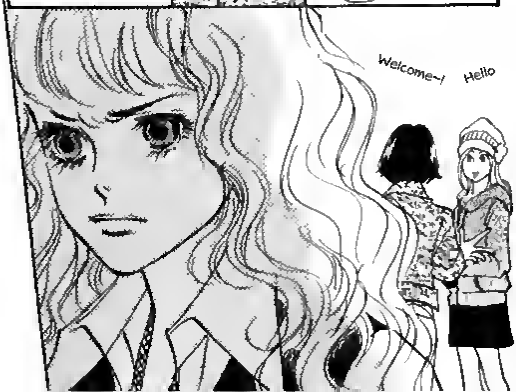

AS YOU, YOURSELF SAID... THAT WOULD BE NO DIFFERENT FROM MY CURRENT JOB.
...HUH?
WOULDN'T IT? I THINK YOUR SKILLS WOULD BE PUT TO BETTER USE AT A SELECT SHOP RATHER THAN A DEPARTMENT STORE.
I RESPECTFULLY DECLINE
WHAT A SHAME.

AH!
AMANO-SAN, GOOD MORNING
GOOD MORNING
THE CHIEF IS IN THE BACK AT THE MOMENT. I'LL GO CALL HER!
OH! NO, THAT'S ALRIGHT!!
GULP

I'M BACK
OH!
CHIEF! AMANO-SAN WAS JUST HERE ESPECIALLY FOR YOU!
?
IF SHE'S DOING WELL, THEN IT'S OKAY
I PASSED A HUGE WORKLOAD ON TO HER, AND I WAS WORRIED, SO—
SHE'S NOT DRIVING HERSELF TOO HARD...?
SEE YA
THAT'S GOOD.
SHE SEEMS FINE— NO DIFFERENT FROM USUAL
?


SHE SAID SHE WASN'T HERE FOR ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR.
SHE WAS JUST WORRIED OVER WHETHER YOU WERE FEELING ALRIGHT.
...I WONDER WHAT FOR

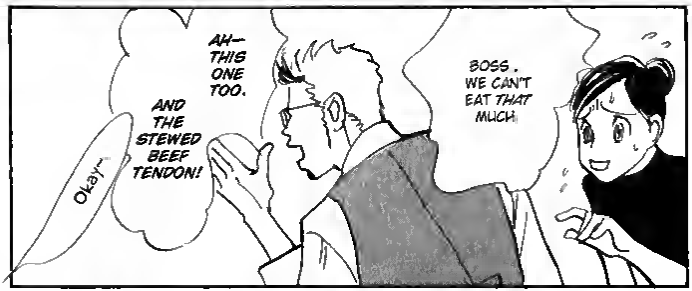




(T/N Hyakumi – One Hundred Flavors)

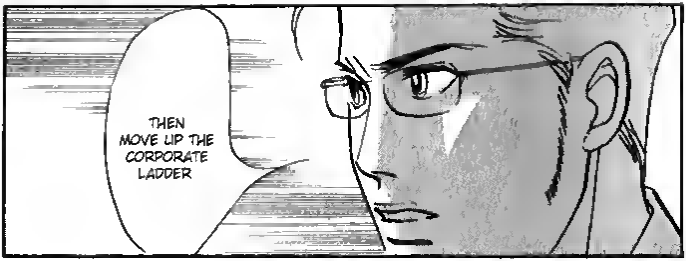
A DOUBLE OF THE CRAB-CREAM CROQUETTES.
THE FRIED KAW. HAGI*.
THE SASHIMI COMBO PLATTER
—AND SOME MACKEREL WOULD BE GOOD, TOO.
KYO-YUBA* AND BOILED VEGGIES.

(*T/N: Kyo yuba is Japanese style boiled tofu skins. Kawahagi is threadsail filefish, which can be served as either sushi or sashimi.)

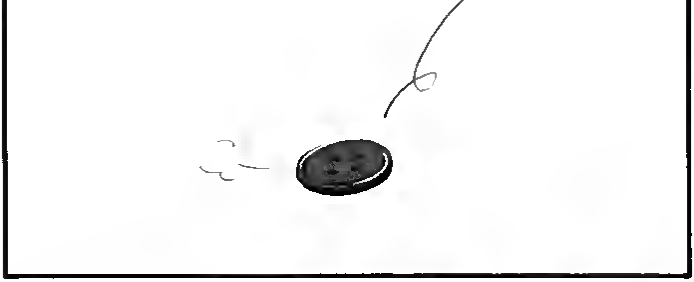


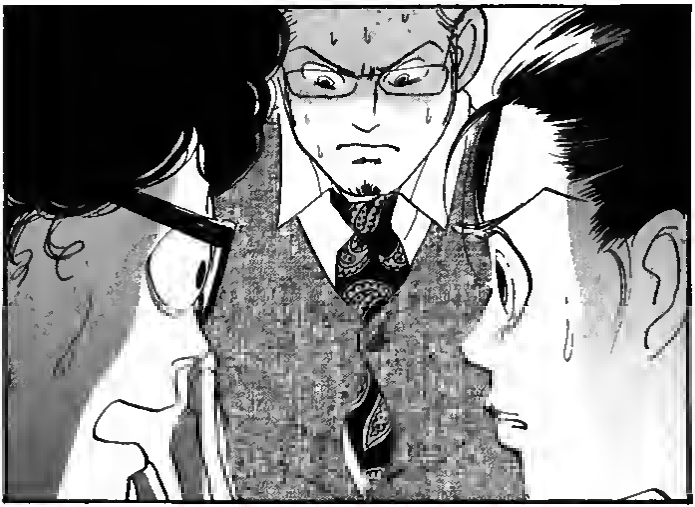
CHUBBY BITS
HE'S MATURING, RIGHT?
I KNEW IT... IS HE CONSOLING HIS BROKEN HEART WITH FOOD?
There?
I'M NOT FAT.
HM... DID YOU HAVE SOME TASTY MEALS ON YOUR HONG KONG BUSINESS TRIP?
THE POUNDS GAINED IN A WEEK ARE LOST IN A WEEK.
WOAH! HE'S SUPER-SENSITIVE ABOUT IT!
THIS "TALK" YOU MENTIONED.
SO! WHAT?!

A PROBLEM CONCERNING THE LONG-TERM EMPLOYMENT OF OUR FEMALE SALES CLERKS?
THE GIRLS WOULD PREFER A RELIABLE FUTURE OVER AN UNCERTAIN ONE.
THOSE WHO HAVE SKILLS WILL END UP QUITTING.
THE DEPARTMENT STORE WILL LOSE ITS APPEAL!
THAT IS, IF WE DON'T HURRY UP AND MAKE A WAY FOR THEM TO BECOME FULL EMPLOYEES!!


THEN MOVE UP THE CORPORATE LADDER

BECOME AN EXECUTIVE AND CHANGE THE COMPANY.
Don't point your chopsticks at people!
HUH?!
I DON'T WANT TO BE AN EXECUTIVE!
POP
YOU SHOULD BE THE ONE TO HURRY UP AND BECOME AN EXECUTIVE, PLEASE!
THAT WOULD BE TOO LATE FOR THEM! WE HAVE TO DO THIS NOW.
THAT'S— AND WHEN WOULD THAT BE? IS THIS A FANTASY STORY?
ORK!
URK?!

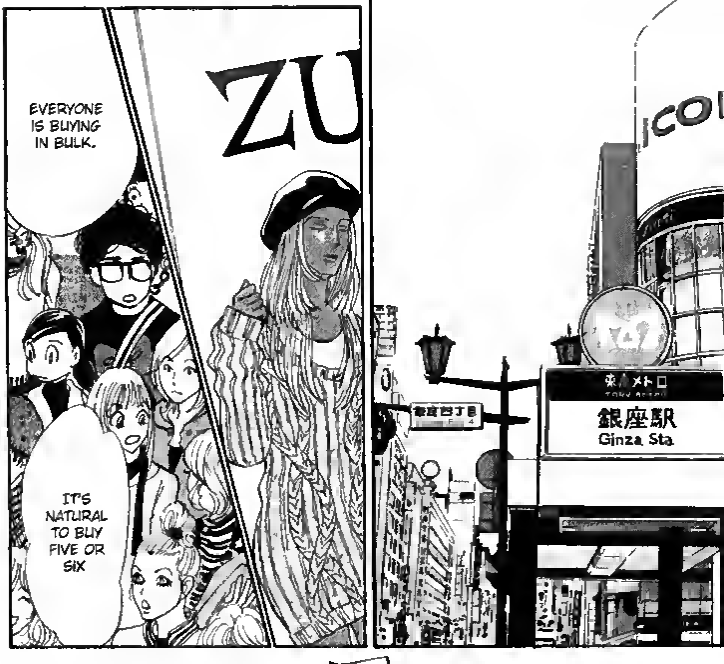


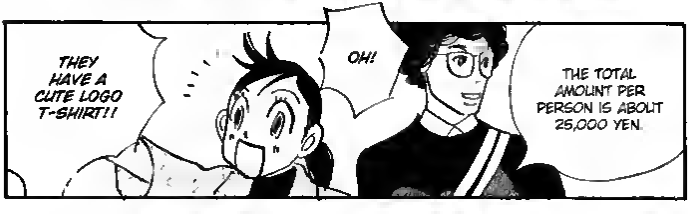


OINK
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BECOME AN EXECUTIVE, BUT PLEASE GO ON A DIET.
BOSS, THIS IS A REQUEST FROM BOTH OF US.

Sigh
PEACE!
CERTAINLY,
THERE'S NO HELPING THE FACT THAT I RIPPED INTO MY SUPERVISOR AT A BAR.
PEOPLE WHO WANT THE FREEDOM TO RELOCATE, PEOPLE WHO SAY THEY WANT TO CHOOSE A RELIABLE PATH—
And Konishi-san seems to be the strong-willed type.
—HOW COULD THEY BE STOPPED?
GASP!
PEACE!
I'M GETTING MARRIED, SO I'M QUITTING ECHIZENYA!

OKAY!?
THAT'S RIGHT!! THAT TIME WHEN I WAS GOING TO QUIT
HE GAVE ME A HUGE JOB.
...

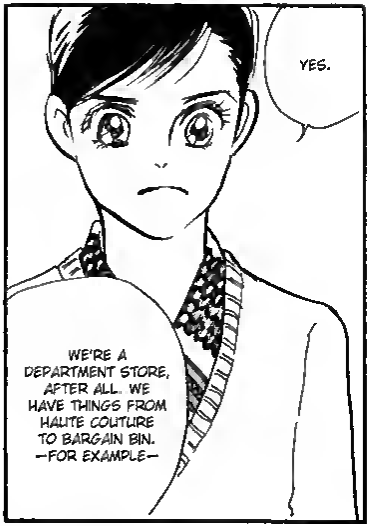

ZU
EVERYONE IS BUYING IN BULK.
IT'S NATURAL TO BUY FIVE OR SIX
銀座駅
Ginza Sta.


THEY HAVE A CUTE LOGO T-SHIRT!!
OH!
THE TOTAL AMOUNT PER PERSON IS ABOUT 25,000 YEN.

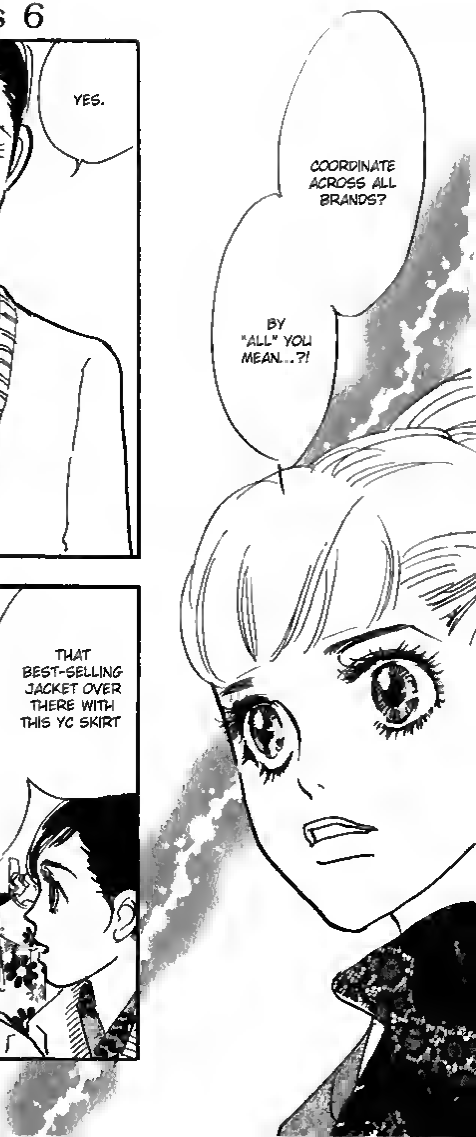
ALTHOUGH I DO WANT IT AS A REFERENCE...
WHAT SHOULD I DO? MAYBE I'LL BUY IT. BUT I DON'T NEED TO GO SO FAR AS TO BUY IT

STARTLE
GO BUY IT! THERE IS NO "NEXT WEEK." THINGS FLY OUT OF HERE SO QUICKLY!
What should I do?
IF IT INTERESTS YOU THAT MUCH, HOW ABOUT COMING BACK LATER TO BUY IT?
THERE IS THAT
I CHANGED MY MIND, I'LL BUY IT!!
CH-
CH-CH-
ZURA
YOU'RE RIGHT-- AND I'M HERE IN TOKYO, AFTER ALL. I'LL BUY IT! IT'S CHEAP ANYWAY!
THERE IS A CERTAIN THRILL IN BUYING SOMETHING PRODUCED ON A SMALL SCALE.
THE TURNAROUND FROM DESIGN TO THE RACK IS A MATTER OF 40 DAYS, THEY SAY
CHA-¥-CHING!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN HAD

40 DAYS... BUT THAT'S AN IMPOSSIBLE RATE...
FOR A FULL-BODIED DEPARTMENT STORE, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
TO OFFER THAT MANY NEW PRODUCTS EVERY MONTH
...TO LOSE...
ESPECIALLY SINCE WE DON'T LOSE TO THEM WHEN IT COMES TO VARIETY OF PRODUCTS... IT'S FRUSTRATING...
ZURA


YES.
WE'RE A DEPARTMENT STORE, AFTER ALL. WE HAVE THINGS FROM HAUTE COUTURE TO BARGAIN BIN. —FOR EXAMPLE—

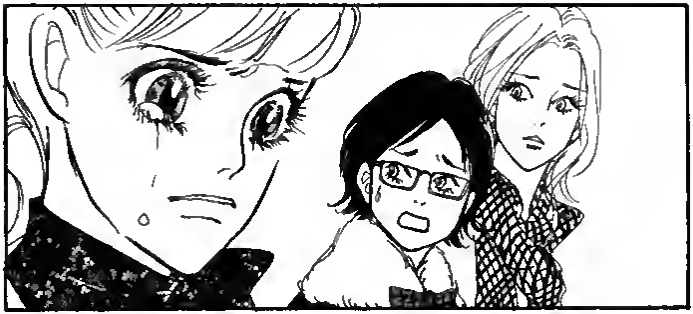
THAT BEST-SELLING JACKET OVER THERE WITH THIS YC SKIRT
I WANT THEM TO BE WORN TOGETHER.


COORDINATE ACROSS ALL BRANDS?
BY "ALL" YOU MEAN...?!

THAT'S ... A SIMPLE MATTER, IF I'M JUST ASKING, BUT...
...MUTED
COULD I HAVE YOU SOUND OUT THE PEOPLE IN THE BRAND AREAS?
BECAUSE I'M NOT A PERMANENT EMPLOYEE.
WHY?!
IT WOULD DECIDE NOTHING. THEY'D SAY "NO WAY" AND THEN IT WOULD END THERE, FOR SURE
.....
AGAIN!
AMANO-SAN! CHIEF!
JINBO-BUCHOU IS MAKING HER ROUNDS.
I'M GIVING YOU THE TASK!
PLEASE DO THIS!

WHO DID THE STYLING HERE?
I DID.
IT'S BORING.

THE WORK IS EXPERT— AND UNINTERESTING.



KONISHI-SAN.

GOLDY
REJECTED HER.

Real Clothes

by Makimura Satoru

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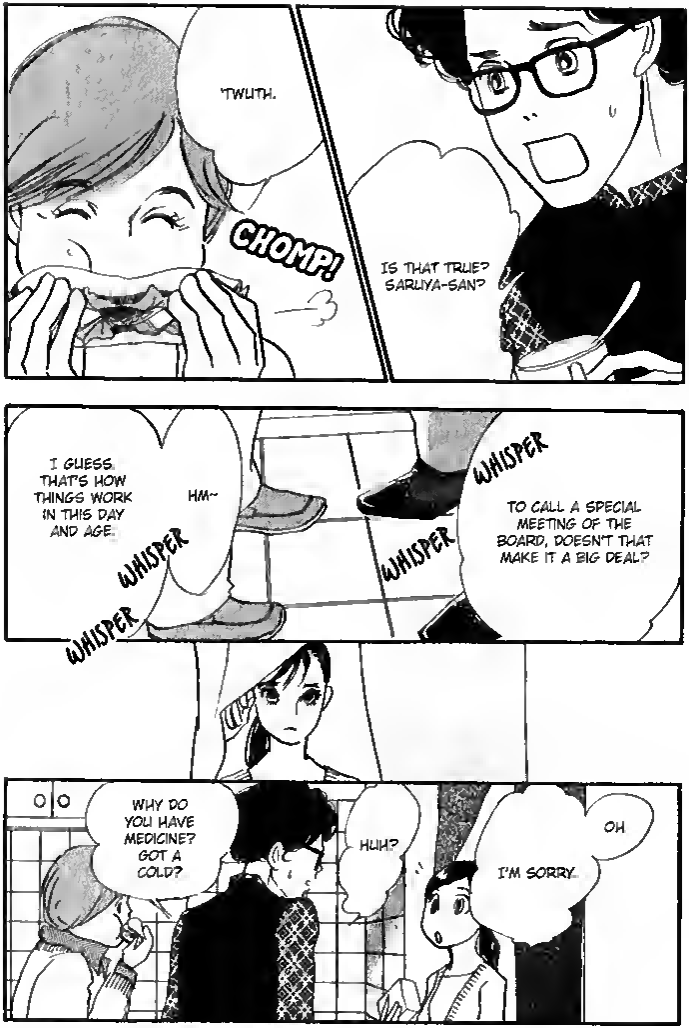
Real Clothes

Chapter 45

WHY—?
A PERSON WHO HAS DRIVE, ABILITY, MERIT,
A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY, A GOOD WORK ETHIC, AND LEADERSHIP QUALITIES
HAS TO GO THROUGH ALL THIS?
IT'S TOTALLY NUTS.

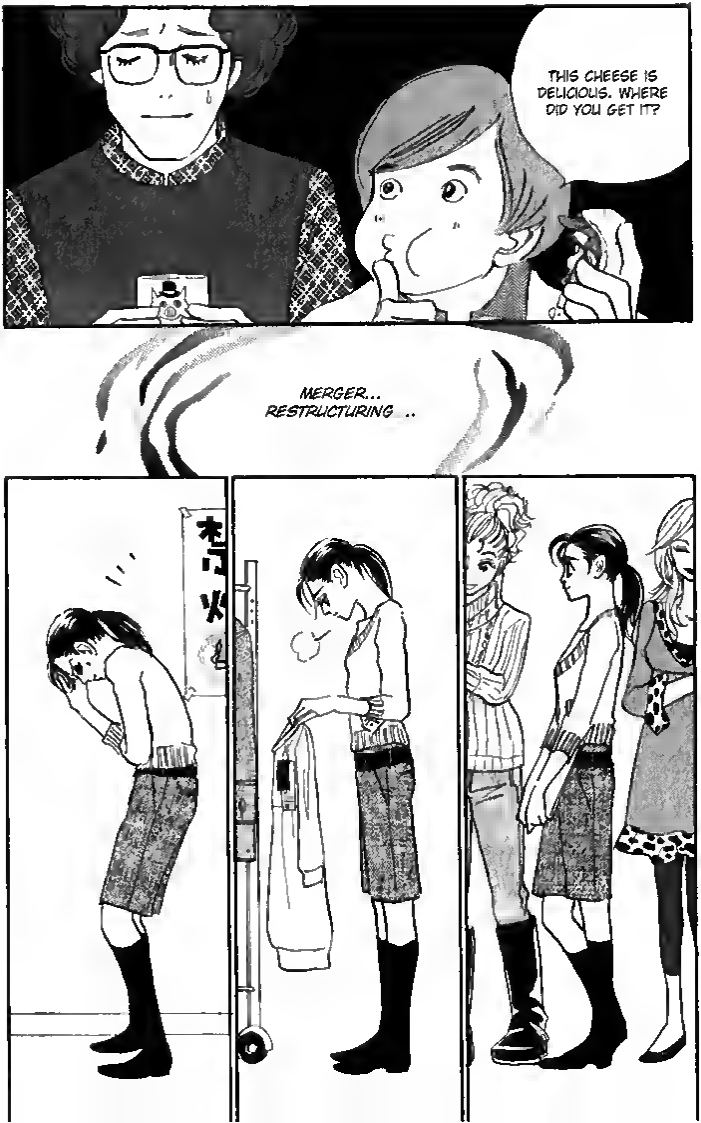
IT'S TOTALLY OFFENSIVE.
EHH?!
IT'S TOTALLY FUTILE...
Ladies' 3rd Department Tea Room
お茶どころ
婦人三課


TWUITH.
CHOMP!
IS THAT TRUE? SARUIYA-SAN?
I GUESS. THAT'S HOW THINGS WORK IN THIS DAY AND AGE.
HM~
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
TO CALL A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD, DOESN'T THAT MAKE IT A BIG DEAL?
WHY DO YOU HAVE MEDICINE? GOT A COLD?
HUH?
OH I'M SORRY

I'M SARUYA, FROM THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT. NIKOLIN AND I JOINED THE COMPANY AT THE SAME TIME.
NICE TO MEET YOU~
YES!
HELLO.
ARE YOU AMANO-SAN?
LOTS OF PEOPLE ENVY YOU.
RUMOR HAS IT YOU'RE "THE HOPE."
GULP
THAT DOESN'T MATTER ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

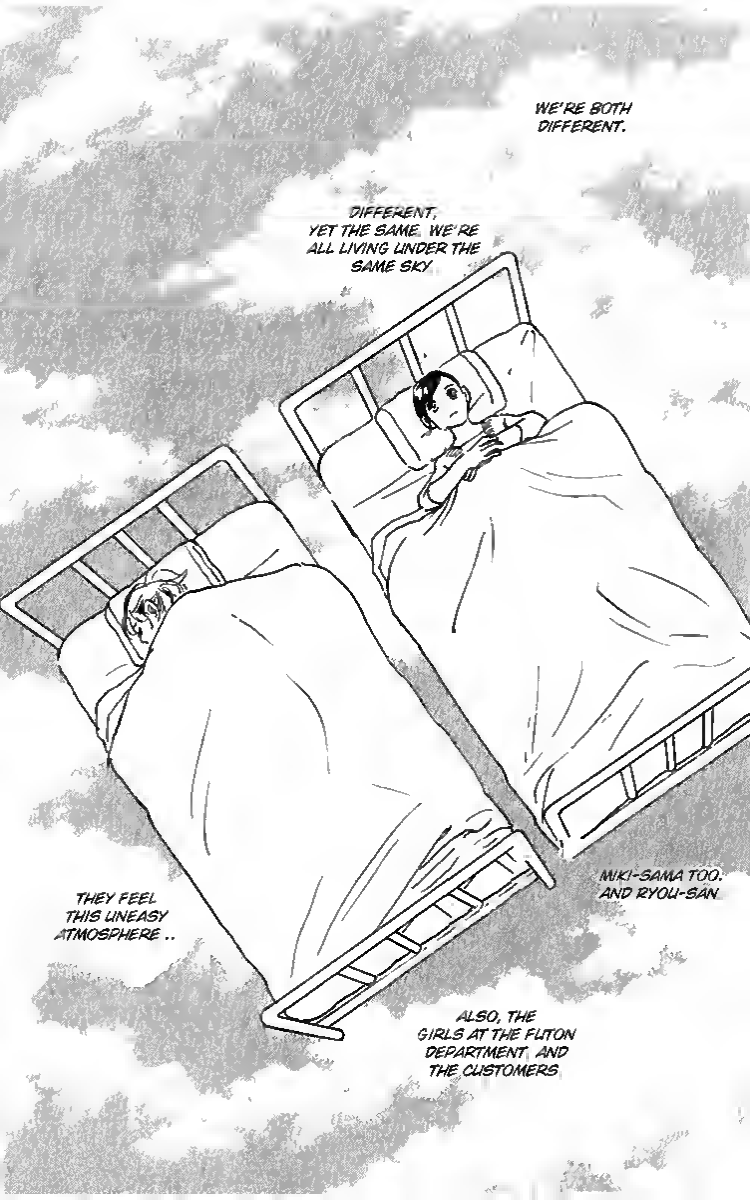
MAN! THIS COMPANY IS HORRIBLE...
IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE, IT'S DISJOINTED, IT'S LOATH TO CHANGE, THERE ARE TOO MANY LOSSES!
WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT "ECHIZENYA, 100 YEARS OF BUSINESS"?
Gah!
IT CAN'T SURVIVE!!
NICHOLA, IF IT WERE THIS GIRL, WE'D BE FINE MERGING WITH MATSUKOSHI!
SARUYA-SAN!
Ha-ha-ha!
Haa!
MER...GER?

TRUTH IS, TODAY THERE WAS A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BEFORE THAT, THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN MEETING WITH MATSUKOSHI'S CEO.
WITH THE VERY PRESIDENT OF OUR RIVAL HIMSELF.
DOES THAT MEAN...
YUP.
WORST CASE SCENARIO, IT WOULD MEAN A TAKEOVER?
AND THE BLOODSHED— A STORM OF MASSIVE RESTRUCTURING...?!
ALSO...


THIS CHEESE IS DELICIOUS. WHERE DID YOU GET IT?
MERGER... RESTRUCTURING...

TABUCHI
Business Trip to Osaka, Return 16 at noon
NICHOLA
AMANO
Medical Office 18:00. Will return. Sorr
KIRITANI
KOGURE
East Asia Spinning ~ Returning Home
SONODA
MILANO
Oh, my
YOU'RE COMING DOWN WITH A COLD.
DRINK THIS INFUSION AND REST
THANK YOU.
There there
AT SOME POINT, I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, AS IF MUTTERING,
"AREN'T I IN THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCE AS KONISHI-SAN?"

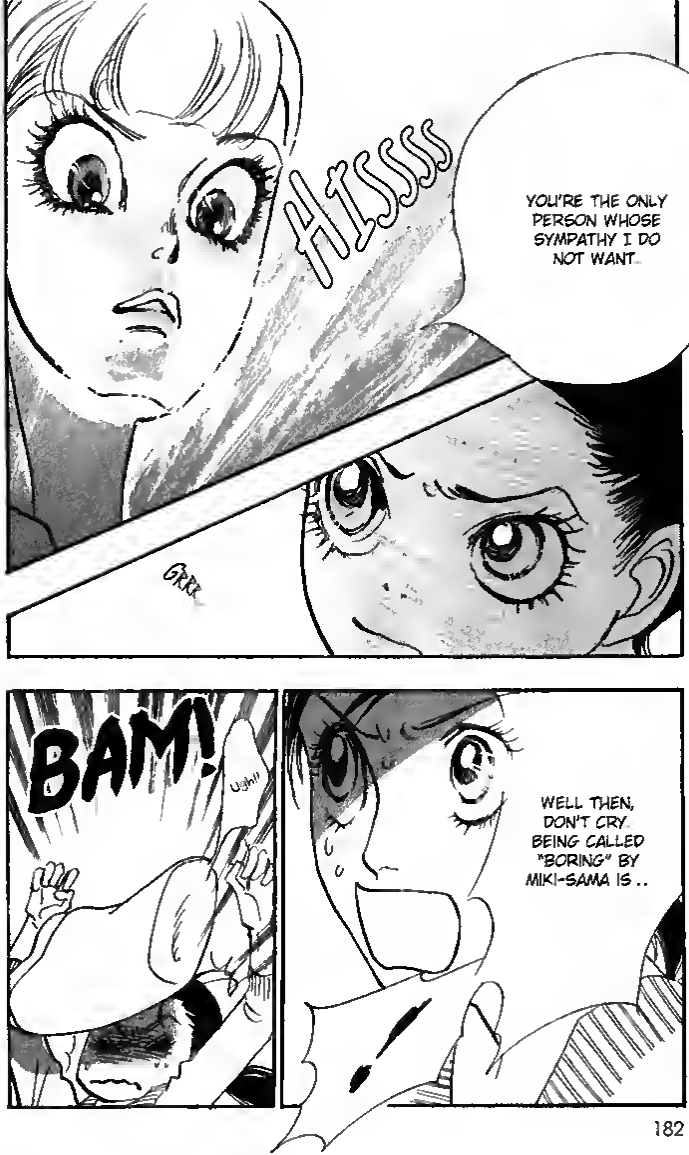
OH DEAR. THIS PLACE IS HOPPING TODAY.
WHAT'S WRONG?
A DIZZY SPELL...
THAT VOICE!
B-BWAD
KONISHI-SAN?!
YOU'RE PALE.
IT'S HARDLY A LEAP TO QUESTION WHEN YOU'LL MEET WITH THE BITTER EXPERIENCE OF RESTRUCTURING.
THE VERY THOUGHT MAKES MY KNEES WEAK— I'M SUCH A MESS!


WE'RE BOTH DIFFERENT.
DIFFERENT, YET THE SAME. WE'RE ALL LIVING UNDER THE SAME SKY.
MIKI-SAMA TOO. AND RYOU-SAN.
THEY FEEL THIS UNEASY ATMOSPHERE ..
ALSO, THE GIRLS AT THE FUTON DEPARTMENT, AND THE CUSTOMERS.

HELLO HOW ARE YOU?
PLEASE TAKE THIS. IT'LL WARM YOU UP.
ENTER...
SOUP CITY
FLING!
NIKOLIN, I BEG YOU, LEAVE!!
HM
YOU DON'T HAVE A FEVER.
IF THE PERSON IN THE NEXT BED OVER FINDS ME OUT, IT'LL BE AWFUL~!
AH-
AHHH-
DON'T GET UP.
THANKS

YOU'D BETTER LEAVE WORK EARLY
I'LL WRITE DOWN "AMANO LEFT EARLY" FOR YOU ON THE BOARD
☆ TWITCH ☆
SILENCE
I'LL GO HOME... QUIETLY.

NO...
TIP-TOE...
WOULD THAT BE COWARDLY...?
RATTLE
LIH,
KONISHI-SAN?
LIH, PLEASE FEEL BETTER
I'M LEAVING NOW

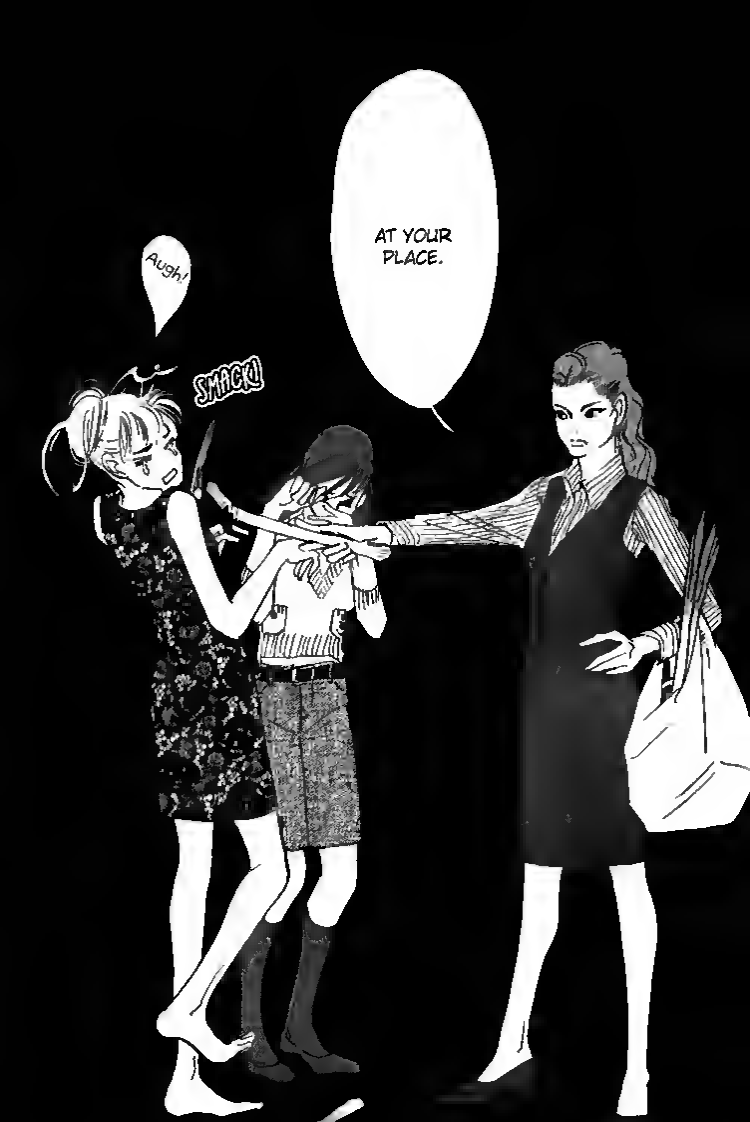

AISSS
YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON WHOSE SYMPATHY I DO NOT WANT..
GRR
BAM!
Ugh!!
WELL THEN, DON'T CRY. BEING CALLED "BORING" BY MIKI-SAMA IS ..

SPRING!
YOU'RE RESERVED, PLAYING AT BEING A GOOD GIRL, AND NEVER TAKE RISKS
YOU NEVER SPEAK UP WITH ANY RESOLVE— WHY?!
WHY ARE YOU HIDING WHEN YOU'RE USUALLY SO STRONG-WILLED?
STOP RIGHT THERE!
IF THE WORK ISN'T DONE, IT'S BECAUSE SOMEONE IS SLACKING!!
AND NOW YOU'RE POUTING?!
PISSED!
WHAT DO YOU REALLY WANT TO DO?!

HAGU!
YOU MATCH YOUR SURROUNDINGS, CHANGING YOUR COLORS WITH THE CONDITIONS,
YOU CHAMELEON WOMAN!!
YOU HAVE TO SERIOUSLY CHALLENGE YOURSELF!

I'M ALWAYS
SERIOUS.
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS I'M BEING SERIOUS?
BUT NOBODY... GIVES—
I'm dying—

(*T/N Japanese nabe is a dish stewed in a boiling pot. Ingredients include vegetables, meat and seasonings.)



◆ End of Chapter 45 ◆